SUNDAY
January 14, 2024

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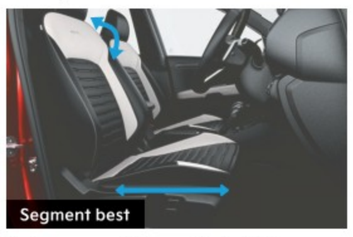

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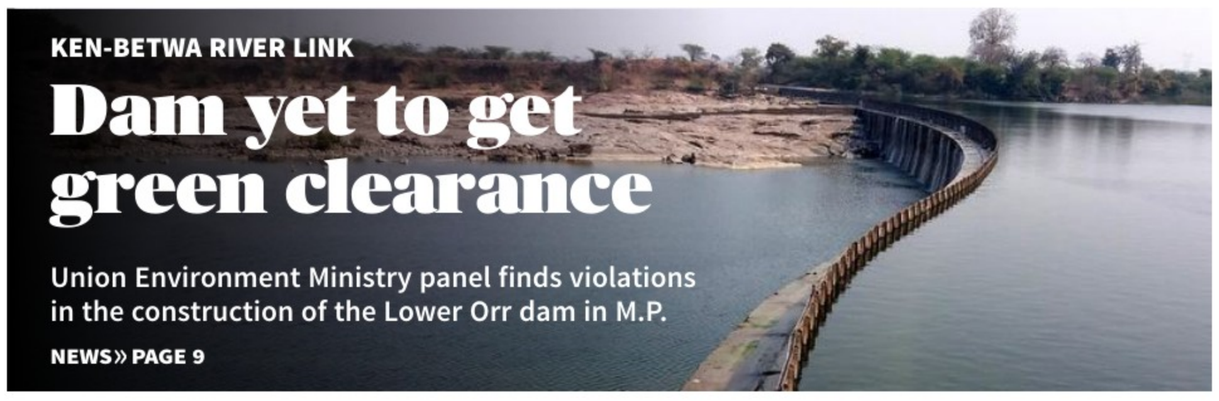

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Dam yet to get green clearance

Union Environment Ministry panel finds violations in the construction of the Lower Orr dam in M.P.

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Lai Ching-te wins Taiwan presidential poll

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Why is aviation safety under scrutiny?

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Olympic qualifiers: India suffers setback

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NEARBY

Police launch ASTraM initiative

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru traffic police have introduced ASTraM to enhance traffic management. M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, said ASTraM is a smart traffic engine which provides holistic insights into the road traffic scenario for Bengaluru city.» Page 4

Only Modi can resolve Cauvery water row: HDD

BENGALURU
JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda has said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can resolve the Cauvery water sharing dispute. » Page 7

Ayodhya mosque to be 'better than Taj'

Panel aims at building one of India's biggest mosques, which will host the world's biggest Koran; construction expected to begin this year

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF), the trust overseeing the construction of the mosque in Ayodhya, has decided to try a different approach to funding the project that has not taken off yet due to paucity of money and administrative delays. It will relaunch the effort, this time with the vigour and pomp of the Ram Temple. Taking the lead is the new chief of the mosque's development committee, appointed in November 2023, Haji Arfat Shaikh, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Maharashtra.

Earlier, the plan, by S.M. Akhtar, the founder dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi, had included a hospital, a community kitchen, a library, and a research centre, across 4,500 square metres.

Now, the aim is to build one of the biggest mosques of India, "better than the Taj Mahal", along with "the world's biggest Koran that will measure about 21 feet", Mr. Shaikh says. It will also be the first mosque in India to have five *minars*.

The new design of the Ayodhya mosque has five minars, first in India. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The earlier design looked like an eggshell, and not at all like a mosque," Mr. Shaikh said, of the zero-carbon-footprint design, adding that the new design, prepared by a Pune-based architect, Imran Shaikh, will be ready by February-end. While the hospital and community kitchen will be retained, more features had been introduced. He sees the construction of the expanded vision begin in the second half of 2024, after Ramzan.

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INDIA picks Congress chief as chairperson

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge emerged as the consensus choice to be the chairperson of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) at a virtual meeting of Opposition leaders on Saturday.

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar's name was suggested as the convener of the group by everyone present, but Mr. Kumar neither immediately accepted nor rejected the proposal.

A final call will be taken after consulting those leaders who skipped Saturday's meeting, including Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

While there was unanimity on Mr. Kharge, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren suggested that Rahul Gandhi, as "a young and a dynamic face", could also lead the bloc. Mr. Gandhi promptly declined, citing the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that will be flagged off from Manipur's Thoubal district on January 14. He also asserted that Mr. Kharge was far more experienced, besides being the party president.

Though there was no official briefing after the meeting, JD(U) general secretary Sanjay Jha confirmed the developments regarding the top posts.

CONTINUED ON
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City may face water crisis this summer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The failure of monsoon and the resultant drought have made the threat of a drinking water crisis in the city real, this summer.

Reservoir levels in the Cauvery river basin are lower than what it was during the same time last year. Though the water storage is just enough for drinking water needs of the region till June, when the next monsoon is expected, there are many variables and the possibility of a water crisis looms large.

Groundwater levels have been depleting in the city for several months now, making the water crisis already a reality in areas not serviced by Cauvery water.

FULL REPORT ON
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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

State set to allow online registration of marriages using Aadhaar authentication

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Marriage registration process will be simplified in Karnataka with the State government set to allow it to be done online using Aadhaar authentication. The government is hoping that the online process will increase registration of marriages.

The pilot is expected to be run by the end of January before starting full-fledged registrations soon after.

While the offline mode of registration at the sub-registrar's office will continue for those not wishing to provide Aadhaar authentication, those wishing to register their marriage without visiting the sub-registrar's office will be allowed to register online. Documents required for both will remain the same.

Not for registered weddings

The online option, however, will not be available for those choosing a registered marriage under the Special Marriage Karnataka Rules, 1960, under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 since it mandates one month notice and presence of applicants before sub-registrar.

In Karnataka, it is estimated that just about 30% of marriages are registered. While about 1.6 lakh marriages, including those registered under Special Marriages Act, were registered in 2021-2022, the total marriages registered in 2022-2023 were about 2.04 lakh. Between April and October in 2023-2024, about 1.35 lakh marriages were registered. Incidentally, the Supreme Court in February 2006 directed States and Union government to compulsorily register marriages in respective States where such marriages are solemnised.

In a notification issued on January 8, the State government allowed the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps to use Aadhaar authentication to make marriage registration process robust and free from identity impersonation as per Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation Knowledge) Rules, 2020, under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. Earlier, based on the request of the Karnataka government, the Centre on December 26, 2023, approved the Aadhaar authentication of residents on a voluntary basis - using yes/no or e-KYC authentication facility.

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Conditions for authentication

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To ensure safety, Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation Knowledge) Rules, 2020, under the Aadhaar Act, 2016, is being implemented with conditions that the Aadhaar number should not be displayed anywhere in the system, and that wherever required, only the last four digits of Aadhaar number could be displayed. The Aadhaar number should be stored securely in the Aadhaar data vault. The Rule also states that the completed details of e-KYC should not be displayed on screen. Instead only necessary demographic details such as the first name and year of birth may be displayed.

In future, the Rule enables the State government to introduce biometric authentication, including the use of Iris-based biometric authentication as it is considered more accurate, contactless and safe particularly in the pandemic times. The biometric authentication is to be performed only in assisted mode or controlled environment by the operator registered/ verified by the Inspector General of Registration and Commission of Stamps.

Won't rest till more mosques are reclaimed: Hegde

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Uttara Kannada MP and controversial BJP leader Anantkumar Hegde said on Saturday that "the Hindu community won't rest till it reclaims more mosques" on the lines of Babri Masjid, citing structures in Bhatkal, Sirsi, and Srirangapatna in Karnataka.

He was speaking at a private meeting at Kumta in Uttara Kannada district in the context of the January 22 consecration at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Speech goes viral

The four-minute video of his speech has gone viral. "I have no issues even if some call this a threat, but this is a decision of the Hindu community," he claimed.

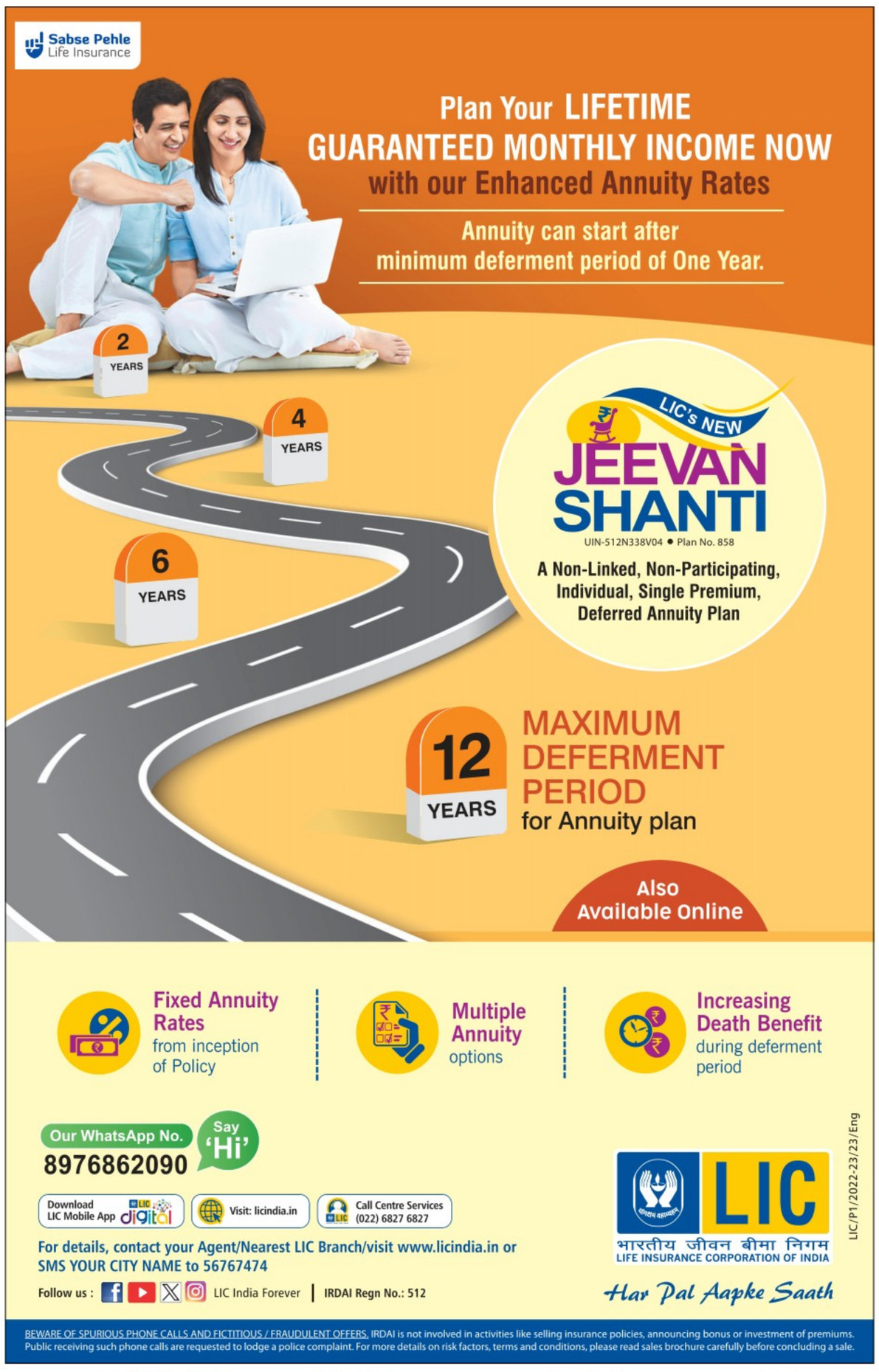
Mr. Hegde also said that the Congress was not the opposition to BJP, but it was Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "In a democracy parties come and go, that is natural. But our opposition is to the non-Hindu mindset like that of Siddaramaiah," he said, addressing the Chief Minister in the singular and mimicking him.

When quizzed about this by media persons later in the day, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Nothing better could be expected from a person who said they have come to power only to change the Constitution."

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that attempts to disturb peace in the State would not be tolerated.

Mr. Hegde, who had been maintaining a low profile over the last couple of years owing to his rumoured ill-health, has made a comeback amidst speculations that he wouldn't be given the ticket this time.

He recently met BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and reportedly lobbied for ticket.



Group effort: Workers husking paddy in Bormarjong village in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

Fresh catch: Women return with fish caught from the fields to feed the workers at Bormarjong.

All together: Villagers gathered for husking paddy.

Money, get away...

Certain tribes of Assam earn a livelihood without following the economic models of modern society, relying on the barter system

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

Assam has a large number of tribes, each unique in its tradition, culture, and attire which looks exotic when viewed from the outside; it is but a way of life here. The landscape, the range of communities, and geographical and ecological diversity make these tribes different from communities in other parts of the country.

Tribal people living in the hills of Karbi Anglong district of Assam work hard to earn their livelihood, as well as the social needs.

The tribal people relies mostly on the barter system, and by providing services. Money as a store and measurement of value and medium of exchange is not used widely. The profit for profit's sake model in economic dealings is generally absent. This was evident even during the pandemic years and it helped them enormously.

Cooperative and collective endeavour is a strongly developed feature of their economy especially in the post-harvest agricultural work. There is a mutual dependence among the people who assist their fellow villagers in preserving the grains for future consumption.

Paying with food: A woman washes rice to serve the villagers who were working in her agricultural field.

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J BG-BGE

Three cheers for rava idli, chandrahara, and countless happy customers as MTR turns 100

Bengaluru's iconic restaurant Mavalli Tiffin Room, or MTR as it is popularly called, is celebrating hundred years of service this year. Today, it has a chain of 12 restaurants in India and seven abroad

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Landmark: Mavalli Tiffin Room on Lalbagh Road in Bengaluru serves nearly 2,000 customers on weekdays and around 4,000 on weekends. RAVICHANDRAN AND FILE PHOTO

Decades ago, our cousin gang had the ritual of visiting Lalbagh every Sunday. An equally important ritual was to come to MTR restaurant for breakfast. If our parents could not spot us in Lalbagh, then they knew we would be in MTR. Their masala dose has remained my favourite through the years," said Savitha Rajesh, an ardent fan of the famed restaurant, walking down memory lane.

Home to a million memories, Mavalli Tiffin Room, or MTR as it is fondly called, is celebrating 100 years of service in 2024. The landmark building on Lalbagh Road at Mavalli has served lakhs of customers its iconic rava idlis, masala doses, badam halwa, and chandrahara, among other delicacies, since 1924.

Dream of siblings

In the early 1900s, three brothers – Yagnanarayana Maiya, Ganappayya Maiya, and Parameshwara Maiya – who were farmers from a village called Parampalli in Udupi district, came to Bengaluru to find work to battle financial issues. While they all initially found work in Bengaluru, one of them had to go back to their home town. Eventually, Yagnanarayana Maiya was supported by his employer to start a restaurant and thus MTR came to being.

In the beginning, MTR was a small food joint on Lalbagh Fort Road which sold coffee, tea, and doses. Only in 1960, the joint was transformed into the restaurant that exists today.

Narasimha Shetty, a senior citizen, remembers the early years of the new restaurant. "I have been coming here for 60 years. Back then, we would rush to MTR before 7.30 a.m. as the sambar would get over after that," he chuckled. He listed dumroot, idli sambar, khara bath, and badam halwa as his favourites at MTR.

In the 1970s, when the government announced the Emergency, MTR had to shut its doors for a while. But unwilling to let their staff bear the brunt of the closure and to provide them with an alternate employment opportunity, Yagnanarayana Maiya started a small store next door to sell masala powders and rava idli mix, which was named MTR Foods.

Classic with a twist

"The speciality of MTR was that they would take a normal dish and give it a twist," said Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner of MTR.

> I have been coming here for 60 years. Back then, we would rush to MTR before 7.30 a.m. as the sambar would get over after that.
>
> **NARASIMHA SHETTY,** a senior citizen

She, along with Vikram Maiya, Aravind Maiya, and Priyadarshini Maiya are currently running the MTR restaurant chain, which has 12 restaurants in India and seven abroad.

Ms. Hemamalini Maiya credits her granduncle Yagnanarayana Maiya and long-time cook, Shivaram Bairy, who was taught by the former and has been with the restaurant for three generations of management, for the creation of MTR's iconic recipes, including the rava idli and chandrahara.

She also vouched that the recipes at MTR have remained untouched and are followed to this day. "The only change is in the raw materials. Like back then, we would get buffalo milk which made the coffee taste different. Our ghee was also made from buffalo milk back then, but now, we get ghee made from cow's milk," she explained.

Employees delighted

Just like their recipes, the staff at MTR have also been around for a long time and a few are even second-generation employees. "My father served here for 40 years in the coffee department. I have been working here as a supplier for 36 years," said Nagendra Adiga, a staff member.

Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner of MTR. RAVICHANDRAN

Similarly, Vasudeva Kumar has been serving coffee for 35 years now. "In the evenings, we serve about 500 coffees and in the mornings, we serve over a thousand coffees. I have spent my entire life here," Mr. Kumar fondly said.

While Mr. Adiga believes that using ghee in all food items is what makes MTR special, Mr. Kumar said that the secret of serving a good cup of coffee lies in the smile of the supplier. Both of them said that they felt a sense of pride about MTR completing 100 years of service.

Innovation of its iconic dishes

The rava idli and chandrahara are synonymous with MTR. A rice shortage during World War II led Yagnanarayana Maiya to innovate the now popular rava idly.

Named after a film

Chandrahara, which is now only served on Sundays, was first named the French Sweet as it was a layered dessert. The name failed to garner the excitement that Maiya expected. Soon enough, a movie named *Chandrahara*, which was running in the cinema next door, brought the sweet its new name and the rest is history.

Celebrity sightings common here

From Kannada film legends such as Dr. Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan to Bollywood superstars and politicians, celebrity sightings at MTR are common. "While filter coffee was his favourite here, Dr. Rajkumar also got his fix of rava idli whenever he visited here," Hemamalini Maiya remembered.

With the overwhelming number of people who visit the restaurant every day (2,000 on weekdays and around 4,000 on weekends), celebrities also go unnoticed at MTR sometimes.

"[Bollywood actor] Shashi Kapoor visited MTR a couple years before he died. He came and sat with the crowd, and nobody noticed or recognised him. Then somebody recognised him and called me over and he asked me if my name was really Hemamalini as he had acted with my namesake in films. He said that his memories of visiting MTR with his father brought him back to the restaurant."

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C-31/24 **76155/12/2589/2023/31441**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-229/2023-24/PO(M) Dated:11.01.2024

Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) on DFOOT basis under RDSS (Central Zone). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 12.01.2024 from 02:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-32/24 **76155/12/2590/2023/31442**

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
NOTIFICATION No.04/2024-RC dated 12.01.2024

Applications are invited for Recruitment to **39 Posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division)** in the A.P. State Judicial Service, comprising of **32 vacancies to be filled under Direct Recruitment** and **07 vacancies to be filled under Recruitment by Transfer.** The recruitment process shall be governed by the Andhra Pradesh State Judicial (Service & Cadre) Rules, 2007. The detailed notification placed on the official website on **12.01.2024**. Online application and user manual are available from **31-01-2024** on the official website of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh **http://aphc.gov.in.** The Last date for submission of Online Application is **01-03-2024 upto 11.59 PM.**

Important dates
1. Starting date for submission of online Application: **31-01-2024**
2. Closing date for submission of online Application: **01-03-2024 upto 11.59 PM**
3. Date of Screening Test (Computer based test): **13-04-2024.**

Note:- No other mode of application will be entertained.
Amaravati, **Sd/-**
Dated 12.01.2024 **Registrar (Recruitment)**
DIPR 12449/CL, Dt.12-01-2024

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TNDER NOTICE No.ERS/SG/CN/2023/OT/04

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam invites E-Tender for the following works:

1	**Name of the work**	Signalling and Telecommunication arrangements at Mangalore Junction (Stage II & Stage III) in connection with doubling of track between Mangalore Junction and Panambur stations.
2	**Approximate cost of the work**	₹ 14,10,59,398/-
3	**Cost of Tender Form**	NIL
4	**Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)**	₹ 8,55,300/-
5	**Bidding System**	Two Packet
6	**Completion Period of work**	10 (TEN) months
7	**Tender Closing Date & Time**	01-02-2024, 15.30 hrs
8	**Notice board particulars where details of can be obtained**	Office of the Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, (Construction), Southern Railway, Ernakulam Juction.

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per extant rules for the supply and services by the tenderer. 2. Joint Ventures (JV) are allowed to bid. 3. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and other details.

Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Construction), Ernakulam Junction

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-231/2023-24/PO(M) Dated:11.01.2024

Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for Smart System Metering (Feeder Metering and DT Metering) in Punjab State Power Cororation Ltd. (PSPCL) on DFOOT basis under RDSS.
For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 11.01.2024 from 06:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-35/24 **76155/12/2593/2023/31445**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-227/2023-24/PO(M) Dated:11.01.2024

Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for Service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) on DFOOT basis under RDSS (South Zone).
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 12.01.2024 from 12:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-30/24 **76155/12/2588/2023/31438**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-226/2023-24/PO(M) Dated:11.01.2024

Chief Engineer / Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for Service Provider for Smart Prepaid Metering in Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) on DFOOT basis under RDSS (North Zone).
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 12.01.2024 from 11:00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-29/24 **76155/12/2587/2023/31436**

District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District.
Telephone No: 08172-234839 Email:pdhassandudc@gmail.com
No:AEE/DUDC/ELN-2023/1,2,3,4&5/2023-24 Dated:12-01-2024

: Tender Notification :

As per Karnataka transferency in public procurement act-1999 and rules 2000 here after tender called in two cover system through e-procurement portal for procure the Cataring service, Election material procurement, Printing items, Trasportation and Videography as directed by Chief Executive Officer, State Election Commission for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024. The details of tender is as below. Sl No.1)E-procurement Number: DMA/2023-24/ IND1188 Details of task: Procuring Cataring serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs. 176.25 lakhs 2)DMA/2023-24/ IND1192 Details of task: Procuring Election matirials for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.49.21 lakhs 3)DMA/2023-24/ IND1201 Details of task: Procuring Printing serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.65.00 lakhs 4)DMA/2023-24/ SE1838 Details of task: Procuring Trasportation serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.22.50 lakhs 5)DMA/2023-24/ SE1840 Details of task: Procuring Videography serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs): Rs.24.00 lakhs Time table of tedner is as below Sl No.1)E-procurement Number: DMA/2023-24/ IND1188 EMD Amount: Rs.4.41 lakhs 2)DMA/2023-24/ IND1192 EMD Amount: Rs.1.24 lakhs 3)DMA/2023-24/ IND1201 EMD Amount: Rs.1.62 lakhs 4)DMA/2023-24/ SE1838 EMD Amount: Rs.0.565 lakhs 5)DMA/2023-24/ SE1840 EMD Amount: Rs.0.60 lakhs Last date for submision of tender: 20-01-2024, 5-30 PM Tender opening date (Technical qualification bid): 22-01-2024 If any chances in the schedule date it will be published through e-procurement portal Interest eligible contractor can obtain additional information through tender document which is uploaded in e-procurement portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Any information regarding procurement can be obtained during office hours.

Sd/- Project Director, DUDC Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಡಾಸನ/653/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/658/2023–24

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SRI.PANDURANGA RAO M GOKHALE (M.PANDURANGA GOKHALE)** S/o Sri.M.Krishna Bhat, residing at No.55/1, 3rd Cross, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru-560019. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land measuring (i) **1 Acre 30 Guntas bearing Sy.No.46/2;** (ii) **1 Acre 10 Guntas bearing Sy.No.46/3** and (iii) **32 Guntas bearing Sy.No.47/3,** situated at **Thorechannohalli Village,** Soluru Hobli, **Magadi Taluk,** Ramanagara District and bounded as follows:
East by : Land bearing Sy.No.33
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.46/1 & 47/2
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.36
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.32 & 47/2

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex,
22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari
BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mr.A.Ganeshan S/o Late R.Armugam** to bring the notice of the general public that the original Certificate of Sale bearing doc No.GAN-1-01482/2006-07 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.GAND67, Date.30.06.2006, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Gandhinagar, executed by The Indian Bank, K.R.Road Branch, Bangalore in favour of **Mrs.Shameem Unnisa.S** is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable House property bearing municipal **No.15,** II Cross, old No.164/21, at **Siddarthanagar, Dr.T.C.M.Royan Road,** BBMP old ward No.30, new ward No.138 (old PID No.30-34-15) New PID No.138-W0168-12), now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 21 feet and North to South 25 feet, total measuring **525 Sq.ft.,** and bounded by:
East by : Site No.163, West by : Site No.154, North by : Conservancy width 6ft (original site No.165) South by : Road

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai - 15.

Ref.No.TNSWA1/428/2023, Dated 08.01.2024

Tender for supply of skilled / semi-skilled workers to work under Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission on contract basis is called for from the experienced Institution / Resource organization / Agency / Firms / Consultancy by the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority.
For further details please visit **www.tnswa.org** , **www.tnforest.gov.in** , **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Email address : **tnswa18@gmail.com**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai - 15.
DIPR/245/Tender/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.0159/A&A/RIGHTS/2024 **TENDER NOTICE** **Dated: 12.01.2024**

Bids are invited from potential Bidders for Fabrication/Body building of Mobile Outreach unit on vehicle chassis through e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website - **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Director for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Project Director – RIGHTS / Director for Welfare of the Differently Abled
DIPR/ 261 /TENDER/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) and REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)
TENDER NOTICE
Procurement of Consulting Services (Firms) and Goods

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project financed by the World Bank and ADB financed inclusive Resilient Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project in Tamil Nadu. TNUHDB now invites Request Proposals (RFP) and Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the below mentioned activities for Project Monitoring Unit of TNUHDB under the World Bank financed Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of the Activity	Online Submission deadline (Last Date & Time)
1	In-TNSCB-399513-CS-LCS	Procurement of HR Agency for providing Manpower services for preparing Architectural Design Drawings - 6 Nos.	**13.02.2024 upto 11.00 Hrs.**
2	In-TNSCB-400639-GO-RFQ	Procurement of Hardware (Computers and Accessories) for implementation of Double Entry Accrual based Accounting System under TNHHDP	**31.01.2024 upto 11.00 Hrs.**

The detailed RFP & Terms of Reference / RFQ are available in the Tamil Nadu Government e-Procurement Portal - **https://tntenders.gov.in**

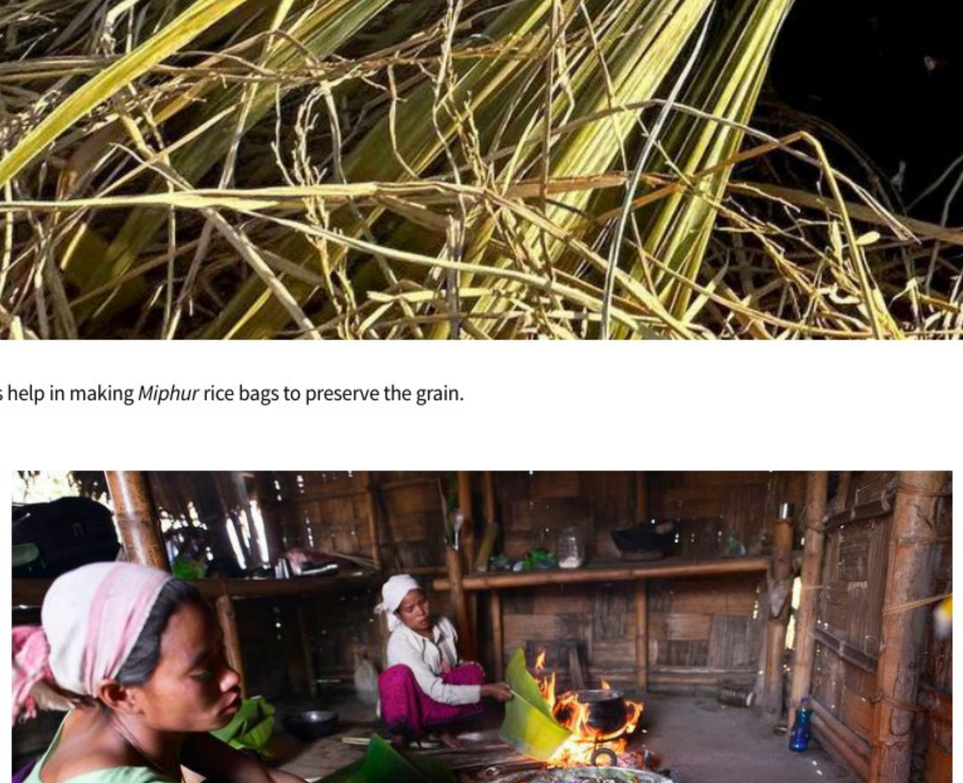
The detailed proposals (Technical and Financial proposals separately) shaoll be submitted online in Tamil Nadu Government e-procurement portal as per the respective RFP an RFQ.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Project Monitoring Unit, TNUHDB.
DIPR/229/TENDER/2024

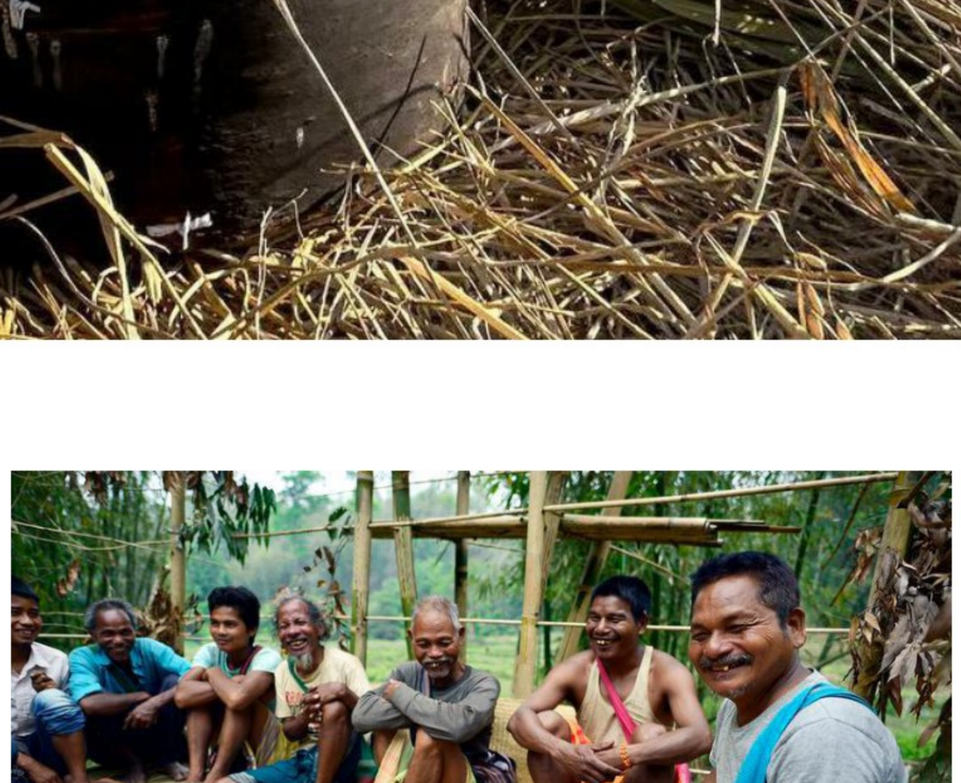
To preserve: Villagers help in making *Miphur* rice bags to preserve the grain.

Served hot: Food getting ready for those who have helped in husking paddy.

Leisure time: Villagers relax with workers during the day of cleaning of his paddy.



Busy at work: A man make straw bundles which will be used for packing rice.



Happy face: A lady with her *Miphur* rice bags.

City staring at water crisis this summer

BWSSB officials are hoping that the drinking water needs of the city are prioritised over other uses, from the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A water crisis appears to be looming large in the city in the summer months due to severe drought in the region. The problem is two-fold: low water levels in the region's reservoirs and receding groundwater levels.

The city receives 1,450 million litres per day (MLD) of water from the Cauvery and will get 775 MLD more once the Cauvery V Stage is commissioned in April. The city also depends on groundwater resources for up to 700 MLD every day.

While the groundwater crisis is evident and acute, officials are hoping that the drinking water needs of the city are prioritised over other uses from the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin and Bengaluru will be able to scrape through till the monsoon sets in, in June.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has written two letters to Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd., appealing to them to reserve 1.6 tmcft of water every month till March and 2.42 tmcft of water every month from April.

"There is just enough water to meet the drinking water needs of the region, including Bengaluru. But if the government releases water to save the standing crops like it recently released the Krishna waters from reservoirs to save the chilli crop, the water scarcity is going to be severe. Even otherwise, there are many variables: the Cauvery Water Management Authority may ask us to release more water to Tamil Nadu and we need to account for evaporation losses and dead storage, which may lead to a shortage. We need to manage the resources judiciously," said a senior BWSSB official.

Most of the apartments in the outer zones of Bengaluru have been dependent on water tankers, which have become hard to come by and the prices have shot up considerably in the last month.

Campaign to save water

Given the precarious situation, the BWSSB is all set to launch a 'Save Water' campaign in two weeks.

Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has instructed the BWSSB to launch a water conservation campaign for this summer. "The campaign will appeal to industries to try to use reused water and common citizens to save water at homes," said Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB chairman. People will be asked to stop washing vehicles with running water, avoid using bathtubs, showers, and try to reuse water if possible, sources said.

Depleting groundwater

The water crisis is already acute in outer zones, areas not getting Cauvery water and are dependent on groundwater. Most of the apartments in these areas have been dependent on water tankers, which have become hard to come by and prices have shot up considerably in the last month.

"Groundwater levels are depleting and borewells are going dry. We are not able to find adequate water. We have three borewells, of which two have gone dry. While it used to take 20 minutes to fill a 12,000-litre tanker earlier, it now takes nearly three hours. So the output is so less and we are not able to service even our regular customers," said Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Mahadevapura zone.

The price of a tanker load of 12,000 litres, which was ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 a month ago, has shot up to ₹1,500 to ₹1,700. "In another month's time, it will cost more than ₹2,000," Mr. Reddy said.

While some tanker businesses are trying to drill more borewells, illegally, drawing the ire of residents in Mahadevapura, prompting the Minor Irrigation Department to form a Special Task Force to check the menace, the spate of new borewells have also come down as many have failed of late. Of the 11,000 government-owned borewells in the city, 800 have been completely out of service and even in those functional, water levels are receding. "We have asked all zonal officers to come up with action plans to rejuvenate these borewells," Mr. Manohar said.

Storage in KRS, Kabini reservoirs

The Hindu bureau
MYSURU

The water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) on Saturday was 95.53 ft as against the maximum level of 124.8 ft while in Kabini the reservoir, the level was 2,272.5 ft as against the maximum of 2,284 ft.

The cumulative storage in the KRS and the Kabini reservoirs – the two major sources of drinking water to millions of people in the Cauvery basin of the State – was nearly 32.89 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) on Saturday.

While the quantum of water available in the KRS is 19.51 tmcft, the storage is 13.38 tmcft in Kabini. The storage position may appear to be comfortable on the surface. But in comparison, 40.96 tmcft of water was available in the KRS on the same day last year and the cumulative storage in both reservoirs was 53.67 tmcft which brings to the fore the severity of the monsoon failure in 2023.

Dead storage

Again, about 4.5 tmcft of water from the KRS and 3.52 tmcft from the Kabini reservoir has to be discounted for dead storage which reduces the available water for consumption to around 25 tmcft.

The Bengaluru-Mysuru belt requires about 3.5 tmcft of water a month and if the region has to evade a water crisis in the coming summer, the available storage in the reservoirs has to be reserved exclusively for drinking purposes, thereby denying water to farmers to save the standing crops.

Mekedatu imperative for city's water needs: HDD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Asserting that immediate permission should be given for the Mekedatu project to meet the growing demand for drinking water in Bengaluru, the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said that it is crucial for Bengaluru's water needs.

"Bengaluru is a fast-growing city providing employment and livelihood to people from across the country. An impending water crisis in the city can be avoided only if the Mekedatu drinking water project is implemented. Otherwise, the city will be stuck in a huge water crisis," he said, addressing a press meet.

Bengaluru's population which currently stands at 1.35 crore is set to exceed three crore by 2044. The city will need over 64 tmcft of water to meet the drinking water needs of such a large population, he said.

INBRIEF

Two-day music festival in city from today

A two-day 28th annual Sankranti music festival to commemorate the 104th birth anniversary of Carnatic vocalist R.K. Srikantan, organised by Vidwan R.K. Srikantan Trust, will be held from Sunday. The inaugural day's programme will feature nadaswara by Surendra and party at 5.15 p.m. followed by Swagatham dance by Preethi Prasad. Mridangam exponent Trichy Sankaran and Sanskrit and Vedic scholar K.G. Subraya Sharma will be felicitated during the event. The day's programme will conclude with a vocal concert by Rudrapatnam S. Ramakanth and party from 7.15 p.m. to 8.45 p.m.

The programme on Monday will feature a vocal concert by Rajeev Ramakrishnan and party from Chennai from 9.30 a.m. followed by a veena concert by Yagneshwara Shastry from Kerala from 11.15 a.m. A vocal concert by Bhargavi Venkatram and party will be held from 5 p.m. The event will conclude with a vocal concert by Sampagodu Vignaraja and party from 7 p.m. The two-day programme will be held at Seva Sadan Hall, 14th Cross, Malleswaram.

'South India Content Summit 2024' comes to a close

The first-ever South India Content Summit 2024, organised by Fourth Dimension Media Solutions, came to a close at the Lalit Ashok on January 9.

The summit, attended by eminent personalities and industry leaders, showcased the unprecedented growth of the content creation sector in South India. The South India Content Summit 2024 featured leadership sessions and engaging panel discussions, providing insights into visionary leadership, industry trends, effective strategies, and various aspects of content creation. The event was inaugurated by Hemant Nimbalkar, Commissioner of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Karnataka.

Sponsors of the event included *The Hindu*.

Mysuru Dasara expo attracts 15 lakh footfall in 90 days

In a span of 90 days, as many as 15 lakh people visited the Dasara exhibition in Mysuru.

The exhibition began on the day when the Dasara festivities got off to a grand start last year and concluded on Friday.

"This year's exhibition has been a big success as over 15 lakh footfall have been recorded since the start," said Srivatsa, MLA.

Applications called for Jayadeva director's post

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the tenure of C.N. Manjunath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research – the State-run heart speciality centre, coming to an end this month, the Medical Education Department called for applications for the post on Saturday.

The department, which published an advertisement in a Kannada daily, has given applicants only four working days to apply – till 5 p.m. on January 19.

Sources said this was a short period for interested candidates to apply for a premier institution such as Jayadeva. "Usually, interested candidates are given at least three weeks to apply. Why is the government hurrying up the process of appointing a new director? They can post an in-charge director till a permanent director is appointed," sources said.

On July 17 last year, the State government extended the term of Dr. Manjunath by six months. His one-year extension, given in 2022, ended on July 19, 2023.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil had told *The Hindu* that a search committee would be appointed to select a new director for the institute.

Case against Instagram account holders for abusing CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Grounds police have registered a case against two Instagram account holders for posting a morphed picture of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with abusive comments.

Based on a complaint by Sajay Yadav, secretary, KPCC Legal Cell, the High Grounds police on Friday filed an FIR against 'troll_kannadiga_1' and another account holder Kritika Kriti, charging them with promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, and also for making or circulating false statements, rumours, or information with specific intent.

Diamond, foreign currency smuggling racket: Four arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials on Wednesday unearthed a smuggling racket and arrested four passengers smuggling diamonds and foreign currency together worth ₹13.8 crore.

Based on a tip-off, the officials intercepted two passengers at Bengaluru and two at Hyderabad airports after they completed the boarding formalities. "The diamonds of 8053 carats and 5569 carats, natural and lab-grown, were concealed inside chocolate packets and headed to Dubai," the officials said.

"The accused passengers are from Chickballapur and they had sourced the smuggled items from Mumbai before boarding the flight, to be handed over to their contacts in Dubai," they said.

The diamonds were concealed in chocolate packets.

The officials suspect that the accused are part of a bigger racket and further investigation is on to ascertain the network.

Food delivery man killed in road accident near J.P. Park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old food delivery person was killed after he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed into the road divider on Tank Bund Road near J.P. Park, in Yeshwantpur traffic police station limits, in the early hours of Saturday.

The deceased, Anil Kumar L.M., was returning home from work and was reportedly riding rashly. According to the police, Anil lost control of the motorcycle and crashed into the iron barricades put up on the road divider and sustained severe head injuries.

By the time passers-by came to his help, Anil had succumbed to his injuries, the Yeshwantpur traffic police said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 14	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:11
RISE 09:17	SET 21:16
MONDAY, JAN. 15	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:12
RISE 10:02	SET 22:13
TUESDAY, JAN. 16	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 10:44	SET 23:08

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	30	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable.Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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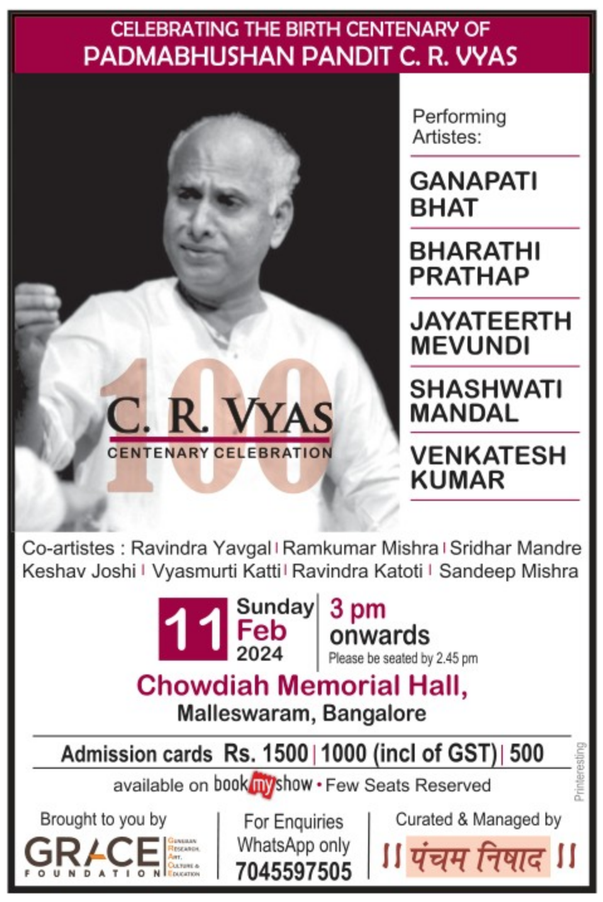
Elephant operation: Tusker captured in Alur taluk

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department staff succeeded in capturing a tusker at Nallur in Alur taluk of Hassan district with the help of trained elephants on Saturday.

The operation to capture trouble-causing elephants, which was abandoned following the death of tusker Arjuna, on December 4, resumed on Friday. The special trackers among the staff located a tusker for the capture. The veterinarians fired the tranquilliser dart to sedate the animal. Later, the animal was captured on a coffee estate with the help of tamed elephants. "The captured elephant will be shifted to Mathigodu camp at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve," Sourabh Kumar, DCF of Hassan Division, said.



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Police launch ASTraM initiative for enhanced traffic management in city

'Its main purpose is to provide situational awareness to take data-driven decisions'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru traffic police have introduced ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management) to enhance traffic management.

Elaborating on the initiative, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, said ASTraM is a smart traffic engine which provides holistic insights into the road traffic scenario for Bengaluru city. The main purpose is to provide situational awareness to take data-driven decisions for effective traffic management, he added.

This includes congestion alerts, incident reporting using BOT (mobile application), special event management, and dashboard analytics.

The initiative includes an ambulance tracking application which will provide better coordinated movement for ambulances across Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Congestion alerts

Explaining each function, Mr. Anucheth said congestion alerts are intended to provide real-time alerts on congestion to the jurisdictional traffic officials every 15 minutes. This is integrated with the e-attendance system so that alerts are sent to the junction jockeys and sector officers, apart from various stakeholders for better traffic planning and management.

The dashboard analytics initiative intends to provide actionable intelligence regarding traffic conditions, road safety, and enforcement. The main purpose is to tabulate the volume and quantum of traffic in terms of congestion length, vehicle count, vehicle type, so that data-driven decisions are taken for effective traffic management.

Using the analytics, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) also intend to do traffic congestion prediction so that any deviation from the regular volume can be handled in a better way by gearing up themselves and disseminating information to the various stakeholders. This keeps track of historical data which enables a comparative analysis with the real-time traffic, Mr. Anucheth said.

The initiative of incident reporting using BOT will serve to report any field incident from authorised sources so that corresponding information is shared with the map services. This will provide the public with real-time information. Based on this reporting, BTP's Traffic Management Center (TMC) monitors the on-field traffic situation for resolving the same in coordination with jurisdictional traffic officials and other stakeholders.

Log of all major events

The special event management feature keeps a log of all major events in the city and gives a spatial understanding of the traffic situation for better response management in terms of allocating resources and planning other alternative measures, while the ambulance tracking application initiative will provide better-coordinated movement for ambulances across the city.

This application will alert the control room whenever an ambulance gets stuck for more than 120 seconds in traffic. The shortest possible route and traffic situations would be communicated to the driver through this app, said the police, adding that it includes SOS button for the drivers to get immediate intervention.

Woman, male friend arrested for killing husband with grinding stone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HSR Layout police on Saturday cracked the murder case of a 30-year-old security guard and arrested his wife and her male friend who had allegedly killed him with a grinding stone to make it look like natural death on January 9.

The accused, Nandini Bai, 20, a native of Andhra Pradesh, was married to Venkataramana Nayak, 30, a security guard. The couple moved to the city a few years ago. Nayak used to work as a salesman in a store during the day and work as a guard at night. The couple have a three-year-old daughter who stays with the deceased's parents, while the eight-month-old baby girl lives with the couple.

According to the police, Nandini used to call her male friend, Nitish Kumar, home frequently when Nayak was out at work.

However, Nayak returned home early one day and found them at home. Heated arguments ensued following which the duo killed him using a grinding stone, said the police.

They later planned to conceal the crime and dumped the body outside the washroom situated in the compound of the house. After Nitish left, Nandini created a scene and cooked up a story that Nayak who returned home from work felt uneasy and collapsed outside the bathroom.

The police had shifted the body for post-mortem while beginning a probe suspecting her role. The accused even created a scene in front of the police, collapsed and got herself admitted to a hospital stating she was in shock. However, the police suspected her role based on circumstantial evidence and analysed technical details to ascertain her role, while the post-mortem report confirmed that severe head injury had caused the death. The police have arrested the duo on the murder charge. The minor children have been handed over to the family members until further orders from court.

CCB raid reveals betting racket at Bangalore Turf Club

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The raids conducted by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police officials on Friday has allegedly exposed an illegal betting racket operating in the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC).

Based on a tip-off, the CCB officials raided the premises and arrested 66 bookies and seized ₹3.4 crore in cash from them.

The accused were allegedly operating through the bookie stalls claiming to be licence holders and running the betting racket illegally.

The accused had no records for the betting received and were also avoiding taxes, a senior police official said.

As many as nine bookies managed to escape during the raid and efforts are on to track them down, the Central Crime Branch officials said.

Power shutdown on Tuesday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11-kV Anjanapura for carrying out periodic maintenance works.

According to a release from Bescom, HSR Layout Division, the areas that will be affected are: Avalahalli, Anjanapura village, Brookes Layout, BDA Layout, Royal County Layout, Deepak Layout, Vaddarapalya, Avalahalli slum, Avalahalli BDA Layout, Srinivasa Reddy Layout, Bank Officers Layout (Narayana Nagara) 1st and 2nd Blocks, and nearby areas.

झारखंड सरकार, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गुमला

ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 12/R1/2023-24/RWD/W/EE/GUMLA दिनांक:–13.01.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पैकेज के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि।	टेण्डर कॉल सं0
1	RWD/ GUMLA/ STPKG-11/ 2023-24	डुमरी से करमडोन तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.400 कि0मी0) डुमरी से पकरीटोली तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.500 कि0मी0) अकासी से करमडोनी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.200 कि0मी0) आर0ई0ओ0 रोड़ जैरागी से डहकुल तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.500 कि0मी0) ताती से बमहनडीपा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.700 कि0मी0) बानडुआ से महुआडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.200 कि0मी0) आर0ई0ओ0 रोड़ बाघमरिया से बनडुआ तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–2.662 कि0मी0) पी0डब्लू0डी0 रोड़ कानजी से बतसपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.650 कि0मी0) चिरैया से खुँटकोना तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–5.200 कि0मी0)	1550.148	पन्द्रह करोड पचास लाख चौदह हजार आठ सौ रू0 मात्र।	09 माह	द्वितीय।

2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 16.01.2024
3 ई– निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:–23.01.2024 अपराहन 04:00 बजे तक।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:– 24.01.2024 अपराहन 5:00 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला, विकास भवन, गुमला के बगल में, पिन–835207
6 ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06524–465040 ।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला

PR 316052 Rural Work Department (23-24)_D

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)

No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/EE(RA)/AEE(T)/(I/c)AO(RA)/2023-24/49669-74 Dated: 11-01-2024

NOTIFICATION

BEFORE HON'BLE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560052

IN THE MATTER OF :

An application for approval of Annual Performance Review of FY-23 (truing up), Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) & Expected Revenue from Charges (ERC) for the 6th Control Period for FY-25 and Retail Supply Tariff for FY-25 of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), Kalaburagi 585102 under Section 27 of the Karnataka Electricity Reform Act, 1999 and under Section 61 & 62 of Electricity Act, 2003, read with relevant KERC (Tariff) Regulations including KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail sale of Electricity) Regulations 2006 and MYT Order No. D/01/6, Dated 31.05.2006 and with subsequent amendments.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (GESCOM)

.....PETITIONER

SUMMARY OF PETITION (NOTICE)

1. NEED FOR REVISION:

A revenue deficit arises due to the mismatch between the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Revenue Receipts from existing tariff of GESCOM as detailed below (Including subsidy from GoK).

Financial Year	Revenue Receipts in Rs. Crores	Revenue Requirement in Rs. Crores	Surplus/(Deficit) Rs.in Crores	Sale in MU units	Average cost of supply Rs./unit
1	2	3	4	5	6=3/5
2022-23*	7341.61	7637.83	(296.22)	8440.51	9.05
2024-25**	8079.66	9672.92	(1,593.26)	9775.88	9.89

Note*: The Revenue for FY-23 is as per the revised Audited Financials same is indicated in replies to KERC preliminary observations (Page No. 111)

Note**: Total Deficit proposed for recovery from the Tariff Petition: Rs. 1593.26 Crs. includes the deficit of FY-23 (Rs. 385.44 Crores) and revenue requirement is provided in the additional information to the tariff application.

1) The revenue receipts (income) are estimated as per the existing tariff and deficit could not be recovered at the existing tariff. Hence this petition for revision of tariff is filed proposing hike Category wise (LT/HT) i.e. increase in Fixed Charges & increase/ decrease in Energy Charges, enabling GESCOM to recover the projected total deficit Rs. 1593.26 Crs for FY-25. 2) PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE: The Tariff wise/ slab wise existing tariff rates and proposed tariff rates for both fixed charges and energy charges is shown in Annexure. 3) Pursuant to Regulation-5 of KERC (Tariff) Regulations 2000, it is hereby notified that the persons who are intereseted in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same with the Receving Officer, O/o The Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560052 along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in six sets, duly supported by an affidavit within Thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Tariff Notification and also to indicate whether they want to be heard in person during public hearing. A copy of the objection may be marked to Executive Engineer (El), Regulatory Affairs, Corporate office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102 for furnishing replies to the objections. 4) For reference of those who are interested, copies of the petition are available with the Executive Engineer Ele, (RA) Corporate Office, Station Main Road, Kalaburagi-585102 and at O&M Circle Office GESCOM, Kalaburagi/Bidar/Ballari/Raichur/Koppal. A full set of petition copy will also be made available on payment of Rs. 600/- and 800/- for Tariff Petition copy and GESCOM's replies to Commission's preliminary observations respectively. For both Rs. 1400/-. 5) The soft copy of the ERC/ Tariff application, Commission's preliminary observation's Compliance of GESCOM can be viewed on GESCOM official website (https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in/) or may also be obtained the copies of required portion/ full copy of the petition/GESCOM replies to KERC preliminary observation etc., by paying applicable charges.

Annexure

Statement Showing Existing Tariff for FY 24 and Proposed Tariff for FY 25

Consumer Category/Slabs		Fixed/Energy Charges (Rs./Unit) Existing	Proposed
LT-1 : Applicable to Bhagya Jyoti/ Kutira Jyothi Installations			
Energy Charges: Up to 40 Units		8.75	11.13
Fixed Charges: Minimum Charges/Installations/ Month		100	100
LT-2 a: Domestic			
Fixed Charges / KW/Month	Per KW Upto 50 KW	110	210
	For Every additional KW above 50 KW	210	310
Energy Charges/Unit	0 to 100 units	4.75	5.75
	0 to All units (If the total consumption exceeds 100 units)	7.00	8.00
	A rebate of 30 Paisa/Unit in Energy Charges is provided for the Consumer of Village Panchayat		
LT-2 b: Pvt. Profesional, Educational Institutions			
Fixed Charges/ KW/Month	Per KW Upto 50 KW	180	280
	For Every additional KW above 50 KW	250	350
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.75	8.75
	A rebate of 30 Paisa/Unit in Energy Charges is provided for the Consumer of Village Panchayat		
LT-3 a: Commercial			
Fixed Charges/ KW/Month	Per KW Upto 50 KW	200	300
	For Every additional KW above 50 KW	300	400
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	8.50	8.00
	A rebate of 30 Paisa/Unit in Energy Charges is provided for the Consumer of Village Panchayat		
LT-3 b: Hoarding and Advertisement Boards			
Fixed Charges /KW/Month	Less than 67 HP only	200	300
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	0.50	11.50
LT-4 (a) : IP sets upto and inclusive of 10HP			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Less than 10 HP only	Nill	100
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.22	8.22
LT-4 (b): IP sets above 10HP			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Above 10 HP	135	235
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	4.10	5.10
LT-4 (c): IP sets Pvt. Horticulture, Nurseries, Coffe, Tea and Rubber plantations			
Fixed Charges /HP/Month	Per HP	135	235
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	4.25	5.25
LT-5: Industries			
Fixed Charges /HP/Month	Below 100 HP	140	240
	100 HP and above	250	350
Energy Charges/Unit	0 to 500 units	6.10	5.60
	Above 500 units	7.10	6.60
	A rebate of 30 Paisa/Unit in Energy Charges is provided for the Consumer of Village Panchayat		
LT-6 (a): Water supply			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Upto and inclusive of 67 HP	175	275
	For Every additional HP above of 67 HP	275	375
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	5.50	6.50
LT-6 (b): Public Lighting			
Fixed Charges/ KW/Month	Per KW	175	275
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.00	8.00
LT-6(c) Electric Vehicle Charging Station			
Fixed Charges/ KW/Month(LT)	Per KW Upto 50 KW	70	70
	For Every additional KW above 50 KW	170	170
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month (HT)	Per KVA	200	200
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	4.50	4.50
LT-7 : Temporary Supply			
Fixed Charges /KW/Month	Less than 67 HP only	200	300
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	11.50	12.50
HT-1 : Water supply & Sewerage treatment plant & Pumping installations			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	350	450
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	6.00	7.00
HT-2 (a): Industries			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	350	450
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.40	6.90
HT-2 (a): Railway Traction & Effluent Plants			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	350	450
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.00	6.90
HT-2 (b): Commercial			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	375	475
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	9.25	8.75
HT-2 c(i) Govt Hospitals/Educational Institutions			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	300	400
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.50	7.00
HT-2 c(ii) Pvt Hospitals/Educational Institutions other than those covered under HT-2 c (i)			
Fixed Charges/ KVA of billing demand /Month	Per KVA	350	450
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	8.50	8.00
HT-3 : Lift Irrigation Schemes			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Per HP	150	250
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	3.50	4.50
HT-4: Residential Apartments & Colonies			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Per HP	300	400
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	7.25	8.25
HT-5: Temparory power supply load of 67HP and above			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Per HP for the entire contract demand	400	500
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	11.50	12.50
HT-6: Government Lift Irrigation Schemes			
Fixed Charges/ HP/Month	Per HP of the sanctioned load	150	250
Energy Charges/Unit	For Entire consumption	5.50	6.50

Consumer can avail the ToD facility upon the request (applicable to LT-5, LT-6 (c) , HT-1 and HT-2 (Excluding railway traction)). Facility of Demand Based Tariff is available for (LT-3 and LT-5) consumers. **Note:** In addition to above the applicable taxes levied by Govt. from time to time shall be applicable. For additional information on the proposed Tariff visit GESCOM website **https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in**

For Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.) Regulatory Affairs Section, Corporate Office, GESCOM Kalaburagi-585102

DIPR/Kalaburagi/672/KSMC&A/2023-24

Protest planned against possible conversion of stud farm

It has been called in Kunigal on January 17. The Opposition Janata Dal (S) and BJP leaders are opposing taking any such step and some Congress leaders too have joined hands with them

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With the State government silent on the fate of the historical Kunigal Stud Farm, which is being proposed to be converted into an integrated township project, a protest has been called in Kunigal town on January 17 even as efforts are on to seek a legal recourse through public interest litigation (PIL) against the project.

While sporadic protests have taken place at Kunigal - around 70 kms from here - over the past month, a big protest is being planned next week. While the Opposition Janata Dal (Secular) and BJP leaders are actively involved in the protest, some Congress leaders have extended their support as well.

After the meeting between Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh, whose department currently controls the stud farm, and Urban Development Minister B.S. (Byrathi) Suresh to discuss the modalities of the township, the government has not publicly expressed the way forward. Meanwhile, the tender to identify the highest bidder to manage the stud farm has been cancelled, leaving the future of the farm at stake. Urban Development Department sources said that the proposal has not seen movement since it was also becoming a local issue ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

It has been proposed to turn Kunigal Stud Farm into an integrated township project. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The tender to identify the highest bidder to manage the stud farm has been cancelled, leaving the future of the farm at stake

Heritage value

Former Congress legislator from Kunigal B.B. Ramaswamy Gowda said that he would file a PIL if the government goes ahead with the township plan. "Kunigal is known for its lake and stud farm, which has immense heritage value. Kunigal town itself is crying for attention with huge infrastructure woes. Instead of setting those right, a township in place of stud farm is being proposed. I will seek legal recourse," he told *The Hindu*. According to him many are not expressing their opposition openly due to local political pressure and the government has been silent on the issue.

It is learnt that while the township proposal came from Congress legislator H.D. Ranganath, Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh has also visited the farm recently as Kunigal falls under his constituency. Dr. Ranganath is related to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Dr. Ranganath brushed aside the opposition to the proposal. "The Bangalore Turf Club has been offered a part of the stud farm to conduct horse racing. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has also agreed. The BTC now has to respond to the proposal," the legislator said. Sounding noncommittal on the township project, he said, "Nothing has moved so far in connection from township. Whatever I do is in the interest of Kunigal."

India's contribution to the world of knowledge is growing quickly: Nobel laureate Brian Schmidt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"India's contribution to the world of knowledge is growing quickly, and I am honoured to be part of a celebration of some of the most significant advances that we are honouring in this year's ceremony," said Brian Schmidt, Nobel laureate in Physics in 2011, and former Vice-Chancellor and Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at Australian National University. He felicitated the winners of the Infosys Prize 2023 here on Saturday with a pure gold medal, a citation, and a purse of $100,000.

The winners were conferred the prize for their contributions across six fields – Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

Winners of the Infosys Prize 2023 with Brian Schmidt, Nobel laureate in Physics in 2011 and the trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation during the prize distribution ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The event was attended by distinguished scientists and academicians from around the globe, business leaders, young researchers, and students. Trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation – Kris Gopalakrishnan (president, Board of Trustees), N.R. Narayana Murthy, Srinath Batni, K. Dinesh, Nandan Nilekani, Mohandas Pai, Salil Parekh, and S.D. Shibulal – were present. At the ceremony, Prof. Schmidt, said, "The awardees, who cover the breadth of the academy, are world leaders in research, and its translation for the benefit of humanity. The world needs such knowledge to help us live peacefully and sustainably on a planet that isn't getting any bigger, even though humanity's footprint is."

Highlighting the importance of investing in science and research, Mr. Gopalakrishnan, said, "The Infosys Prize, in its 15th year now, continues to focus on recognising important scientific research and inspire future generations to take up careers in science."

Winners of the Infosys Prize 2023 in the six categories are: Sachchida Nand Tripathi, professor, Sustainable Energy Engineering, IIT-Kanpur, (Engineering and Computer Science); Jahnavi Phalkey, founding director, Science Gallery Bengaluru, (Humanities); Arun Kumar Shukla, professor, Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT-Kanpur, (Life Sciences); Bhargav Bhatt, Fernholz Joint Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton University, (Mathematical Sciences); Mukund Thattai, professor, Biochemistry, Biophysics and Bioinformatics, National Centre for Biological Sciences (Physical Sciences), and Karuna Mantena, professor, Political Science, Columbia University, (Social Sciences).

THE HINDU GROUP
G SQUARE GROUP
THE HINDU LIT FEST 2024
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In Association with NITTE | CHRIST

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Agatha Christie's first novel, 'The Affair at Styles,' was inspired by a murder mystery in which Indian town?
2. Name the book whose rights were purchased by a production house even before its completion and was later adapted into a famous movie.
3. What was the title of the movie adapted from Romain Puertolas's novel, which centered on a con artist trapped in a wardrobe traveling across numerous countries?

Visit newsth.live/LitfestQuiz
Read the Terms & Conditions.

Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz.
Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. FIVE POINT SOMEONE
2. THE ROOM ON THE ROOF
3. GADSBY

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಉನಸ:ಬಿ2:ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಪ್ರ:2023–24 ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ,

ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.01.2024

2023–24ನೇ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ, 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು 2021–22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **Standard Bid Document K.W3** ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) **e-procurement** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

1. ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2. ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.01.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.	ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸಾಕ್ಷನ್ ಫೀ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ
2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ					
ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ					
1	ಪರ್ಕಳ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಬಸ್‌ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡಿನ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆಯ (ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ ಆಫೀಸ್ ಎದುರಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ) ಬದಿಗ ಇರುವ ಕೆರೆ ದುರಸ್ಥಿಪರಿಸುವುದು DMA /2023-24/OW/WORK _INDENT11593	6290000.00	94350.00	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	3 ತಿಂಗಳು
2023–24 ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನ					
2	ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯಲ್ ಏರಿಯಾ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT11599	7000000.00	105000.00	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	3 ತಿಂಗಳು
2021–22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರ ಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ					
3	ಶೆಟ್ಟಬೆಟ್ಟು ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಹೆರ್ಗ ದುರ್ಗಾಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಹಿಂಬದಿ ಇರುವ ಕೆರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT12282	8490000.00	127350.00	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	3 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science & Technology
Government of India

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · Regional Centre for Biotechnology

AWARD OF DBT – RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2023 – 2024 / CALL-II

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the award of "DBT-Research Associateship" for pursuing research in frontier areas of Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The Associateship is tenable in Premier Research Institutions/ Universities including non-profit R&D Institutions within India. The Associateships are awarded under the "DBT-Research Associateship" programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Start Date of Online Application : 16th January, 2024
End Date of Online Application : 15th February, 2024

Detailed information on the fellowship grant, eligibility criteria and application process is available at DBT website- **www.dbtindia.gov.in** and RCB website- **www.rcb.res.in**. To apply, interested applicants may kindly visit DBT-RA website- **https://ra.dbtindia.gov.in/**.

Interested and eligible applicants from the North East Region are also encouraged to apply.

For any queries, please contact DBT-HRD Project & Management Unit, Regional Centre for Biotechnology at **ra.dbt@rcb.res.in**.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work are invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 1903 Dated: 12-01-2024.

1. Remodeling of Water Supply Distribution System to Sirsi City and Improvements to Existing Water Supply Scheme to Mundgod Town under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/WORK_INDENT113
2. Providing Water Supply Scheme to Examba, Chikkodi and Sadalaga Towns under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/WORK_INDENT114
3. Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Harugeri and Mugalkod Towns (Tranche-2) under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 5 Years (Including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode. (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation) INDENT NO. KUWSDB/ 2023-24/ WS/ WORK_ INDENT115

For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

DIPR/Dwd/675/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL. SENIOR CIVIL AND JMFC AT NELAMANGALA

P & SC No. 7/2023

BETWEEN : 1. Nagamma, W/o Late Hullaraiah, Aged about 47 years, r/at # 19, Dasanapura Hobli, Gangandanahalli Village, Lakshmipura, Bengaluru-562123.
2. Kavitha H, D/o Late Hullaraiah W/o Pramod B N, Aged about 27 years, Bare doddi, Bidadi, Ramanagara-562109.
3. Usha H, D/o Late Hullaraiah W/o Prakash K Aged About 26 years R/at No.62, Sarjupura Hobli, Ittangur, Sarjapura, Bengaluru-562125
...Petitioners

AND : NIL ...Respondents
TO WHOMSOEVER CONCERN

Whereas, as the above named petitioners have made a petition to this Court U/S 372 of the Indian Succession act 1925, praying for issue of Succession Certificate in respect of the estate as below schedule, so left by their husband and father viz., Hulluraiah, who died on 13.05.2023 at Bangalore.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on the **13th day of February 2024 at 11 'O'clock in forenoon** to show cause against to petition failing which-in the matter will be heard and determined exparte.

SCHEDULE

Gold ornaments gross of weight 79.90 Grams deposited in Gold loan Account No. 41439280530 of State Bank of India, Madavara Branch, Bengaluru.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 9th day of January 2024.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Court of Senior Civil Judge & JMFC, Nelamangala.

Advocate for the Petitioners
V.N. Shankaregowda, Advocate
No.22/23, 2nd Floor, # 202, Jalashabhavi Complex, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru-560009. PH: 9902533233
vnshankaregowda1070@gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Finance Department)
FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE (FPI)
Bangalore-Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060.
Ph: 080-2697 1000, Fax: 080-2697 1010, Email: director@fpibangalore.gov.in

No.: FPI-EST0PERS(RF)/6/2023-ADMN-FPI Date: 12.01.2024

Applications for the Posts of Research Fellows & Research Associates

Applications are invited for the posts of **Research Fellows & Research Associates at Fiscal Policy Institute** on contract basis. The eligible candidates may apply in the prescribed application format as detailed and available at **https://fpibengaluru.karnataka.gov.in**

Last date for receipt of completed applications by post or e-Mail is **12.02.2024.**

DIPR/CP/YC/3013/2023-24

Sd/- For Director
Fiscal Policy Institute

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.5000 Crore, (Rs.2000 Crore (15 Year Tenure) and 3000 Crore (16 Year Tenure))**
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort).
3. Date of auction : **January 16, 2024.**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non - competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non - competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/CP/RO/2996/2023-24

Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi-585105, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CEK/Technical/Tender/1211/2023-24 Date : 12-01-2024

:: NOTICE INVITING TENDER ::

1) **Name and description of work** : **No.KWB/CEK/TEC/WS/Pkg3/AMRUT-2.0/1208/ 2023-24 Date: 12-01-2024**, Providing Water Supply Scheme to Yadgir town and Gurumitkal town in Yadgiri District under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 Years (including 1 Year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode. **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT107),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **6070.85** (Excluding GST), Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs): **71,63,000/-**

2) **No.KWB/CEK/TEC/WS/Pkg4/AMRUT-2.0/ 1209 /2023-24 Date : 12-01-2024**, Providing Water Supply Scheme to Shahapur town and Bhimarayangudi town in Yadgiri District under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 Years (including 1 Year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode. **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/ 2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT108),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **8999.33** (Excluding GST), Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs): **1,06,20,000/-**

3) **No.KWB/CEK/TEC/WS/Pkg5/AMRUT-2.0/ 1210 /2023-24 Date : 12-01-2024**, Providing combined water supply scheme to Kuknuru, Yelburga towns, enroute Government Engineering college and Toy Cluster Industry from Tungabhdra Dam as source under AMRUT-2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode. **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT109),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **19577.15** (Excluding GST), Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs): **2,31,01,000/-**

4) Eligibility of Contractor for all works : Eligible Contractors, 5) Period of completion including monsoon in months: **24 Months (Twenty Four) (every work)**, 6) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **02-02-2024 at 12:30 Hours**, 7) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **12-02-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 8) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **14-02-2024 After 11:30 Hours,** 9) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi – 585102. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 10) Address of E-portail: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/670/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. (the secured creditor). The Property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 30-01-2024** for recovery of **Rs. 3,67,23,078/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Seventy Eight Only)With further interest there onat the contractual rate and cost, expenses. as on 31.12.2023** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the **borrower Inch Furniture Co-Borrowers/Guarantors : Mr. G Balaji, Mr. Vinodh Gurusamy, Mr. Krishnappa Gopal, Mrs. Bhavana Balaji, Mrs. R. Sankari**

Description of Immovable properties : All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Flat No. G-1 and , Present Municipal No.62/19/G-1, P.I.D. No. 36-78-19/G-1, Ground Floor with super built up area of 1600 Square Feet and one car parking space in the basement and 500 square feet of undivided share in the property bearing site No.62, Present municipal No.62/19, situated at 2nd main road, the national housing co-operative society layout, Kempapura Agrahara Village, now Prasanth Nagar, ward no.36, Bangalore, measuring East to West (80 + 81.03)/2 feet and North to South 50 feet, measuring all 374.294 square meters and **bounded on the;**East by: 40 feet wide road,West by: Site Nos.67 & 68,North by: Site No.61,South by: Site No.63.

All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Flat No. F-1, Present Municipal No.62/19-2/F-1, P.I.D. No. 36-78-19-2/F-1, First Floor with super built up area of 1600 Square Feet and one car parking space in the basement and 500 square feet of undivided share in the property bearing site No.62, Present municipal No.62/19, situated at 2nd main road, the national housing co-operative society layout, Kempapura Agrahara Village, now Prasanth Nagar, ward no.36, Bangalore, measuring East to West (80 + 81.03)/2 feet and North to South 50 feet, measuring all 374.294 square meters and **bounded on the;**East by: 40 feet wide road,West by: Site Nos.67 & 68,North by: Site No.61,South by: Site No.63.

Reserve Price : Rs.2,45,25,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Five Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only) EMD : Rs.24,52,500/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundredonly)

Mode of Auction	E-AUCTON
Inspection of Property	19/01/2024 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.

Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. Jansi Rao Mob. 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham 9304376755 and Authorised Officer Mr.Varadaraj Mob: 9966078652 vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.

Last date for submission of Bid (E-auction) : **29/01/2024 up to 04:00 PM**

This publication is also a Fifteen Days (15) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, **https://www.indusindbank.com,** regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 11/01/2024 **Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited**

Maharashtra's Phule health scheme centres in Belagavi closed

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Belagavi district administration on Saturday closed and sealed four centres that were offering services related to 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Janarogya Vima Yojna' of the Maharashtra government in Belagavi city.

The scheme has been introduced by Maharashtra government exclusively for the Marathi speaking people residing in 865 border towns and villages of Karnataka. Copies of an undertaking declaring oneself as "Marathi speaking person" and recommendation letters from Maharashtra Ekikarana Samiti (MES) were reportedly being distributed at these centres.

District Health and Family Welfare officer Mahesh Koni told pressperson that based on the complaint filed by district action committee of Kannada organisations that the Maharashtra government was trying to "instigate Marathi-speaking persons of Karnataka" and had set up unauthorised centres, raids were conducted on Saturday.

"At all the four centres it was found that without any authorisation and permissions, these centres were providing service related to health insurance scheme of neighbouring State. We have closed and sealed all the four centres and issued show cause notices to those running them," Dr. Kone said.

Kannada activists had alleged that at a time when the border row was still before the Supreme Court, the Maharashtra government had announced the scheme for the sake of fabricating documents to prove that Marathi-speaking people of Karnataka were in favour of Maharashtra.

The Belagavi district administration on Saturday closed and sealed four centres that were offering services related to 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Janarogya Vima Yojna' of the Maharashtra government in Belagavi city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RBI cancels licence of Hiriyur Urban Co-op bank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The RBI cancelled the licence of The Hiriyur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd in Karnataka, on Friday.

"The RBI has cancelled the licence of The Hiriyur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. The bank ceases to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on January 12," said a statement. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Karnataka has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank. and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

Hiriyur Urban Co-operative Bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. It does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3)(d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, as per RBI.

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COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU YADAVA Chartered Accountant, 31 years, cosmopolitan, based in Bangalore and working for a leading MNC is looking for suitable grooms – IIT/ IIM/ CA/ Doctors – in the 32–35 age group and well settled in the corporate world. Please respond to: sayhellotovenkat@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age – 25. Fair Girl.MBBS, MS Student final. Seeks Doctors.Rich Business. Chennai or Any District.Ct: Catherine – 7824023030

CSI NADAR, MBBS.MD, 26/167, 60, 000per month, Rich Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9047192999

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 34yrs MBBS MS Need only Doctors, well Educated Family. 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR, Age – 31. MBBS, MS, MD, BDS, MDS, DNB. (OG) Fair, Good Looking Girl. Contact : 9445286222.

SAMBAVAR, PARAYAN, 28/167, PG Doctor, seeks suitable groom, Doctors only, Ct: 94425 22322 , 63858 03393.

KAMMA NAIDU, 28/168 , MDS.,BPS., (Prosthodontics & Implantology), Certified BPS Specialist, Uthiratathi, Meenam, Mesham. Seeks Doctor Groom. Ph: 98421 31535.

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HINDU MUTHURAJA, 29 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK. Seeks Groom in UK . Caste No Bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862.

RC GIRL 28/170cm Working in Microsoft Parents Keralite Settled in Chennai Own Business Seeks Chennai Based Groom from a Good Family Background. 98841 85583.

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TAMIL CATHOLIC Doctor parents having own hospital looking for highly educated, cultured, affluent groom, preferably doctor, for their fair, beautiful doctor girl, 31/162 Ct: 9448123480

CSI NADAR, 27/172cm, B.TECH/ MS in Canada, 5 Lakhs per month. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999

CHRISTIAN GIRL, 85 born, settled in US, fair, 5'5" looking for groom settled in US with good Christian values. Mail: 50sudakar@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 23/164, Fair, Beautiful, BE, Educated Elite Family, 50.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

Doctor,Mudaliar, MS, 28/168, Fair & slim educated&cultured,U.middle class fmly,Coimbatore seeks BC groom. MD/MS/DNB/MCh/DM.Ct:9994498762

VANNIAKULA KSHATRIYA Hindu Uthiradam 28/168, B.Tech, seeks well settled educated groom preferably in Pondicherry. Contact: 9443659440

MUDALIYAR 25y / 158cm/ Kannada/ Tamil/ Mca/ divorce seeks clean habits boy with very good family background (CNB) CT.9036778054

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs, Pooram, Simmam, B.Com, Divorcee with 3 years Daughter seeks suitable Groom. Same Caste only. Madurai. Ct: 98436 71081

RC NADAR, M.E., 34/5.7, Fair, Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Contact/whatsApp: 9886888775

SBI BANK, BE Age 29, 60K Per Month, Settled in Chennai, only Daughter, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct 6374767370

GROOM WANTED, Rich Naidu, 26yrs, B.Arch, MS (US), Elite Family Background Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

RICH TAMIL Muslim 29 BSc, MBA Elite Family Seeks Educated, well Settled Chennai Based Groom Ct 8122013565

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 31yrs, MBBS, MS, Own Hospitals, Well Educated Family. 9710093999/ 8939691888

REDDIYAR, 27YRS, B.Tech, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

THANJAVUR Agamudayar, MBBS, MD, 29 years fair seeks BC doctor/ CA/Bank/UPSC groom. 94430 10858.

ALLIANCE INVITED from a well–settled groom for our daughter, Chennai based, fair, 1992 / 155 cm, CSI Nadar, HR professional, Mob: 9444679282

48/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB. Ct: 9444837355/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

SC,34YRS B.TECH, Manager, Govt Bank, Divorcee, Unconsumated. Contact Mobile: 8939574245

TAMIL

VANNIAR FAIR Girl Uthiram 25/160 M.S. (Engg) Australia. Father S.E. (Retd) TNEB Seek Smart handsome groom with M.S (Engg) Ct : 97894 61060

HINDU PILLAI TAMIL 40/M, MCA, divorced with differently abled sister (Sub caste no bar) working abroad seeks educated Bride age <35 yrs with no kids from good family background Contact: 9842666764-/9865284940.

HINDU Devendra Kula Vellalar 28 / 160cm, B.E. NIT, Trichy working in Bangalore 5LPA. Devendra Kula Vellalar and above Preferred MBC, BC, and OC. CT: 6381564391 / 8825927070.

ISAI VELLALA Pillai 26, MBA, Software Employee Chennai. Seeks well qualified & Employed Groom. Father NLC Executive (Retd) Mother CBSE Teacher, Sister HCL Married Software Engineer. Ph: 9443837685 / 8870522456

CSI NADAR, 29, pursuing Ph.D. in Bangalore seeks Nagercoil/ Bangalore based professional Doctor/ Engineer Groom. Contact: 9843950312.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 23yrs, MBA (UK), Elite business family in Chennai. Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 31yrs, BE, MBA, Divorce, Elite business family in Chennai. 9710093999/ 8939691888

WELL EDUCATED and well placed tall boy for 30 years old post graduate girl, working with MNC in California. matrimonyvp@outlook.com

Thenkalai Iyengar (subsect no bar) 29 years Koushiga Gothra, Thiruvonam, M.Tech. working in MNC Bangalore seeks Bridegroom Employed in Bangalore Contact: 9940146834.

VADAKALAI IYENGAR, 28yrs 5'4" Mrigaseerisham 2, B.Tech 20 LPA Seeks good family well educated Iyengar groom, preferably Simple marriage. Ct: 9841385737 / delta8488@gmail.com

Hindu Nadar, 29yrs/160cm Moolam/ Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) Working-CISCO Bangalore, 19L Pa seeks groom with Similar Educational and Professional background. Contact: 91768 00819

Protestant Christian CSI 29/157cm M.Com, M.Phl, P.hd working as Asst. Professor in reputed Women's College Chennai seeks Educated, well - settled from decent family. Ct: 98403 38215

GROOM WANTED
A highly reputed and affluent Hindu family from Tamil Nadu invite proposal for their 1992 born BE/MBA, tall and good looking girl (Divorcee with no issues) having her own start up in Bangalore.
Boy should be well educated and from a reputed family preferably below 35 years.
Contact
99450 33840

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

A DECENT Gentleman (56yrs.), Indian, Fit & Fine, Have Faith In God. No Smoke –No Alcohol. WhatsApp Only 9425372100, 8871046897

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Chennai. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

ENGINEER

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son, aged (26) years, residing in (anna nagar Chennai), height (6ft 1inch), B TECH & MBA (IISC BANGLORE) graduate, (HINDU), (SC ADI _ DRAVIDA). The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. (Same caste/ caste no bar). Should be around (24) years. Contact with (Astrological) details 9444187366 email usharaninishanth@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

KASARAGOD DOCTOR 57/177 seeks Tall Slim Well Settled Bride – Widow Divorcee below 45 years – 9442264610

S. SPL Doctor (Tamil, working in Kochi/ 185 cm / v.fair & h'some) needs a noble charactered, city bred, tall, fair, PG doctor / highly qualified bride (26–29 yrs) from educated Kongu Vellala, Mudaliyar, Pillai, Nair / similar castes. Parents: 93425–29547 / 9072118800

DIVORCEE

ALLIANCE INVITED for Brahmin Iyer boy ,Clean habits, Avittam Kaundinyam, 29/182(Divorced, non consummated) CA–Employed –MNC – Chennai, from Qualified Religious minded Iyer girl without issues from respectable family, Ph:8454056770

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

SENGUNTHAR, 38/ 165 B.E, Widower, NRI. 65 Lacs, 2 Kids living together. Caste, Education, Wealth No expectations. Wants unmarried family oriented girl. 7904495268

RC Rich Only son 31/167cm BE(Aero) SBI-Manager seeks Doctors/PG Engrs caste/R/Launguage nobar.9600390006

KARKATHA VELLALAR 41 MBA Govt. 12PA Divorcee well settled Seeks Graduate Bride Cast No bar Ct:94432 22859

HINDU SC AD, 38/ BE/ PGD HRM/ Director–L&D, Sftwr Co., Chennai, Unmarried Mob: 7824035052

40YRS IT Professional Unmarried Guy Australia Permanent Resident Seeks MBBS Girl Willing To Settle And Work, Caste No Bar, Divorce Also Pref Without Child. Ct: 9884483605

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 24yrs Textile Design Own Textiles Elite Business Family 9710093999/ 8939691888

40 YRS, IT Guy, Australian Citizenship. Seeks Bride MBBS Doctor, Willing to Settle in Australia, Caste No Bar, Divorcee also Pref. without Child. Age 35 to 40yrs. Ct: 98844 83605

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs / 178cm, BE MBA, 33 LPA in MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Employed Bride From a Similar Family Background. Ct:9841054900

SC HANDSOME Dark 29/174 SWE France. Seeks fair Girl with IT job willing relocate to france. 9445013696

VANNIYAR 28 180 BTech Nitk SWE in MNC 30 LPA at Bangalore with low vision in left eye seeks suitable Bride same caste ph 9324324617

GOVT OFFICER 56, Separated,Reside in Coimbatore Seeks Well Settled, Independent Woman Age40–52 as a lifelong companion& Soulmate. CastenoBar mducbe18@gmail.com Call:9585245551

NAIDU: CASTE No Bar – 25Y, Fair, MBBS. Father Lot Business. Seeks Suitable Doctor. Ch any Dist:7824023030

AGE 35, Handsome, Affluent Groom wants Bride with 10Crore Asset. Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 7401489892

CHENNAI 41YRS. GM sports Govt . 2lac/mth.Fair kind innoct divorcee. Sk educated UM / Div bride 6385140946

MUDALIAR 28/182 H.Some, BE,MBA–IIM, Sr.Analyst, MNC,2000000.PA, Elite Fmly, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MBA 178cm Smart Look 35Lacs PA, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 42/163, NRI, PhD Scientist USA.Native Musiri–Trichy. Seeks suitable match with similar/equal qualificationWhatsApp: 9944310533

VISWAKARMA PHD NEWYORK USA 31/155 SEEKS SUITABLE BRIDE PREF WORKING/ STUDYING IN USA. CT : 7200771188

MUDALIAR, UTHIRATTATHI 29/185/ MS, employed in Govt Canada seeks well educated family bride. 9840084190

AGE 35 Handsome, Comfortable Groom needs VIP Girl and first Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce. Ct: 9600240593

BRAHMIN IYER Vadamal 37 Yrs Boy MBA (UK) Head Operations Bangalore 10 Lac pa seeks Iyer Girl any Sect simple marriage. CT: 89399-44644.

IYER PROPERTIED 65 Pensioner Good Health Widower No Issue Seeks Brahmin Life Partner. Prabakar 9741783922

AGAMUDAYAR
30 yrs / 172 cm Pooradam, Fair, Software Engineer 2 Lakhs pm seeks SWE / BE / Dr Bride
6382086919 / 8508099103

TAMIL

IYER B.charanam/ Koundinyam/ Avittam 1988 B.Com/ MBA working pvt firm getting 4.5 LPA seeks working bride. 9443132445.

BRAHMIN 54, Seeks below 53 Years Brahmin Bride. Widowed, Divorcee and Unmarried also Ok. Ct: 9384586456

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

Iyer Unmarried Boy 43 Financially Affluent Contact settled in Coimbatore Email us to: ysmaniraju@yahoo.co.in

HINDU Devendra Kula Vellalar 38 / 165cm, Simmam / Pooram, B.E.Mech Engg., 30 LPA for Agriculture only, Devendra Kulla Vellalar and above Preferred MBC, BC, and OC. CT: 6381564391 / 9884068956.

WANTED BRIDE
Any Brahmin bride for an unmarried Tamil Iyer, Vadamal, Kousigam, Swathi-4
Vijay B, 23.09.90 - 5'8", B.Tech., Working in TCS Chennai
Salary 1,30,000 p/m.
Age diff. 0-5 yrs, Height 5 to 5.8"
No expectations.
94454 66251 / 80158 50909

TELUGU

GOUD, 35/165cm, Central Govt.Job, working in Delhi, PH with artificial limb in left arm from Telangana. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9540459467

KAMMAVAR NAIDU, Groom Age 33 yrs, BE, MBA, Australia seeks suitable Bride wanted. Contact: 9444495038

REMARRIAGE NAIDU 45, Own Business, House, 2Child Age:12,10 Seeks 35–40yrs @Chennai 9840132159, 9840903514

TELUGU

CHENNAI BE Balija Naidu 31yrs Simmam Makam 2padam 16lacs per Annum Project Manager 9962266041, 7010290847

NAIDU 1994 born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

BRIDE WANTED: 39, Kamma Naidu, MBA, Well Settled, Earning 3 Lakhs Per Month, Caste No Bar, No Expectations. Ct: 9962996999

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 30, 174 cm Pooram–Simmam M.S (Engg) working in USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT. 9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

Brahmin Telugu groom aged 39yrs unmarried Haridasa Gothiram, Sr.SW Manager, no commitments, 2.5Lac P.M any Brahmin Iyer Bride (Telugu / Tamil) Ct: 9176131914, 9882882797.

Kapu, Cast No Bar, 45Yrs, Business. Rich Family, Seeks Good Looking Divorce/ widow Bride. Ph: 9845170897

URDU

SALAFI, AGE 25 years, working as Civil Engineer in Saudi, 12 lakhs PA. Ct Dad: 7305763810 Mom: 9600522910

Tamil / Urudu Muslim, 27- HR Bangaluru B.E. MBA, Native: Cuddalore, TN. Wanted 2nd Daughter for my Son. Cont: 95663 02323.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 173 cms, Working Professional, Masters. Lives in Mumbai. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

SAIVA PILLAI, 33, 178 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIYAR, 27, 179 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Salem. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIR, 26, 183 cms, Businessman, PG. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN, 29, 178 cms, Businessman, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 37, 165 cms, Legal Adviser, DIFC. Lives in Dubai. Parents are retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 27, 165 cms, Medical Profession, MD. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

YADAV, 31, 165 cms, Medical Profession, MDS. Lives in Chennai. Parents are retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 34, 163 cms, Working Professional, Masters. Lives in US. Parents are working professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

EZHAVA, 24, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, Graduate. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

DIVORCEE

SEEKING BRIDE for 33–yr boy I Issueless divorceel Puducherryl B.Tech MBA [IIT] working in MNC Bangalorel Tamil Vishwakarma, CNB Cont. 9686107007

TAMIL BASED second divorcee boy age 58 seeking issueless girl . Graduate civil engineer, own house ,income 6 Lakh PA. No expectations. Ct.88387 44120.

DIVORCEE

YADAVA, 41yrs, Mirugaseerisham, Rishabam, 41/182cm, Fair, MSc., MBA, IT, Singapore, 6lks/month, Fair, Divorced No Child, CT: 9944433332.

TAMIL

HINDU DKV Pallan Age 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank, 14 Lakhs PA, Wanted Bride Ct : 9965211259.

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, 31/176cm, BE, Rs. 2,50,000 per month, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

✔ PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

Hindu Pillai 44 yrs/176cm MCA 26 LPA in MNC Chennai Divorcee seeks bride widow/ divorcee Ct 9790744617.

ALLIANCE FOR 27 M/ 5ft 4inch, MSc Engineer, Devendra Kula Vellalar, employed in Netherlands. Seeking employed Graduate/ PG bride with good family background. Caste no bar. Interested families, respond with Biodata, Horoscope and Photo to 09967538710 / chamyvm@gmail.com

AGE 75,RTD Intelligence officer, Currently realty business, widower, children away,healthy active seeking Life Partner, with English knowledge, good health, encumbrance free, CNB call 94455 32961

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU, 28/152cm, Fair, PG MNC Chennai Ct: 6380984534/saanvigklr@gmail.com

SC, 32yrs/152cm, PharmD, Pursuing Ph.D, Divorcee, No kids, Seeks Groom- India & abroad, Caste No bar, ct.9700019949.

URDU

SMU CHENNAI Based (Asst. Prof), 41 / 154cm, Divorcee. Seeks Suitable Groom Same. Ph: 9025067019

URDU

SEEKING SUNNI-MUSLIM Professionally qualified boy from South India, settled in Australia/Canada with PR, 5'8" and above, 30 yrs & below, for NRI girl M.Tech employed very fair, 5'5", 25 yrs. Cont: India – 9440518725 or Father in UAE – 00971506213898.

Urdu muslim 23/166cm B.com chennai Dip. in HR, International Business Management, Canada, Fair,Pious brought -up in Qatar,Parent seeks groom Pref. from Mid-East or other, well-settle God fearing Tamilnadu based Family. Wats App:+97455859272 / call: 7299227044

SITUATIONS VACANT

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DOCTORS NEEDED for Multi–Speciality Hospital in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Pediatrician, Anaesthetist, Laparoscopic Surgeon. Min 2 yr exp. Attractive pay with free housing. Married doctor couples preferred. drvrajasekar@gmail.com 9500043401

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

Astronomical society fellowship conferred on G. Srinivasan

The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS), headquartered in London, has conferred on Professor G. Srinivasan, RRI faculty (retd), an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his scientific work in the field of the evolution of neutron stars as well as for having made significant contributions to astronomy education in India. The RAS, on Friday, announced that Prof. Srinivasan became the 7th Indian recipient of this fellowship. The other recipients include professors V.K. Gaur, Jayant Narlikar, Govind Swarup, Rajmal Jain, J. Goswami, and K.D. Abhyankar. Raman Research Institute (RRI) in a release said that Prof. Srinivasan served at the RRI, an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Science and Technology, during 1976-2004. He worked extensively on neutron star physics, supernova remnants and the interstellar medium, binary pulsars, recycled pulsars, millisecond pulsars.

Officials told to act against illegal removal of lake silt

Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister N.S. Boseraju has instructed officials of the department to take stringent action against people who are indiscriminately involved in removing silt from lakes which has caused water scarcity. In a press statement, Mr. Boseraju highlighted the detrimental effects of "unscientific" silt removal in the lakes managed by the Minor Irrigation Department. He told the Secretary of the Department to issue strict directives to Superintending Engineers of all Circles and Executive Engineers of all divisions to take legal action against any activities involving the "unscientific" lifting of silt.

Only Modi can resolve Cauvery water row, says Deve Gowda

'We must fight together to make PM aware of injustice done to us; there must be no politics in this'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Saturday said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can resolve the Cauvery water sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Addressing pressmen here, Mr. Deve Gowda lamented that Karnataka has been facing "continued injustice" in the Cauvery row. "Only Mr. Modi, who is set to become Prime Minister again, can solve the problem. I will fight for Karnataka's right in the Cauvery issue till my last breath," he said.

Too few MPs

"Every year, Tamil Nadu submits an application to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) for the release of Cauvery water. Even if we (Karnataka) do not have water, the CWMA asks us to give water. This is a death sentence to the State. No matter what our officials argued, it has been of no avail. Tamil Nadu is politically strong with 40 MPs and has power. We have only 28 MPs," Mr. Deve Gowda said.

Expressing regret that the CWMA has never visited Karnataka to see how much water is available in the Cauvery reservoirs, he said: "Cauvery water dispute has a solution. We should fight together to make Mr. Modi aware of the injustice done to us. There should be no politics in this. All political parties should fight together for this cause."

"I will be in the Rajya Sabha for another two-and-a half years. I will go to Delhi and attend the Rajya Sabha session. I will raise the Cauvery issue in the session and fight for this cause till my last breath," Mr. Deve Gowda said.

Stating that he has already requested the Prime Minister's intervention in the Cauvery issue, he said: "I have brought to Mr. Modi's attention every aspect of the injustice done to Karnataka in this issue. However, he (Mr. Modi) cannot do everything immediately. We all have to struggle for this."

On standing committee

Pointing out that he along with D.K. Suresh and Shivakumar Udasi attended the meeting of the Union Jal Shakti Ministry's parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, Mr. Deve Gowda said: "We also discussed hydro-power generation and drinking water. We have convinced the committee about the injustice caused to the farmers in 10 districts of Cauvery basin, including Kodagu."

"Our State got ₹8,000 crore from the Centre for the projects of Krishna basin. However, no funds have been received for the Cauvery basin projects. We brought this to the attention of the committee so that it can be conveyed to the Centre," he said.

'Will most likely go to Ayodhya with my wife'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on Saturday said he is very likely to go to Ayodhya for the Ram temple opening on January 22. Replying to queries during a press conference, he said: "I will go to Ayodhya 99% with my wife."

Responding to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that he will visit Ayodhya after January 22, he said: "I welcome his statement. He has ordered special puja and maha mangalarathi in all temples on January 22 to mark the consecration in Ayodhya. This is a good decision."

Asked if his son H.D. Kumaraswamy will become a Union minister, Mr. Deve Gowda said: "There has been no discussion. I do not know what is in Mr. Modi's mind. Even his colleagues do not know his action plan." Stating that Mr. Kumaraswamy will listen to what Mr. Modi says, he said: "If the situation arises for Mr. Kumaraswamy to contest the Lok Sabha polls, we will all sit and discuss."

Somanna asks to be accommodated in RS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The senior BJP leader said that he was 'satisfied' after the positive meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi

Senior BJP leader V. Somanna, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday, said he had appealed to the party's Central leadership to accommodate him in the Rajya Sabha and make him in charge of three Lok Sabha seats considered tough to win. He said the meeting was positive and he was hopeful.

Mr. Somanna has been disgruntled ever since he lost the Assembly elections from both Chamarajanagar and Varuna where he unsuccessfully contested against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Mr. Somanna had pitched himself for the post of party president in the State and has been unhappy about B.Y. Vijayendra being appointed as party chief. He recently held a "show of strength" meet in Tumakuru giving rise to speculations that he was keen to contest LS polls from there.

However, Mr. Somanna said he has asked to be accommodated in the Rajya Sabha. "Mr. Shah was very sympathetic to my situation, how I lost obeying the diktat of the party. He said I should be in the mainstream and that the high command has instructed the new president to make use of all seniors. I have asked the high command to make me in charge of three Lok Sabha seats. Mr. Shah said there is no question of making me sit at home," he told reporters.

Mr. Somanna said that he was "satisfied" after the positive meeting with Mr. Shah. "I cannot reveal all details, but I have been assured that some issues will be sorted out. I am happy," he said.

M.B. Patil to lead State delegation to Davos

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Karnataka delegation led by Major and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil will leave on Sunday to attend the annual World Economic Forum-2024 to be held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 15 to 19.

The team

The delegation includes L.K. Athiq Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Ekarup Kaur, Secretary, IT/BT, S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industry, Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner of Commerce & Industries, and Mahesh, CEO, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, among others, said a press release.

CM not going

As against the earlier plans, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has decided not to travel to Davos as he has to attend several meetings, including the State Cabinet, in the coming week, official sources said.

IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge has also decided not to travel to Davos as he has to attend various meetings related to the department, official sources said.

From Page One

Online registration of marriages using Aadhaar authentication

Under the rule, the State government can seek permission to use Aadhaar on a voluntary basis.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *The Hindu* that the government hoped to see an increase in registration of marriages with the introduction of online process. "Currently, a very low percentage of marriages are getting registered despite it being required by law. The proof of marriage is required for many things, including inheritance. It will help in (legal) protection of both spouses."

He said, "We want to simplify the process. Without going to the office, they can conveniently complete the process and without wasting time. The government hopes that more people will register their marriages."

Marriages registered in three years

2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024 (April-Oct.)
1,60,220 marriages; includes 10,558 special marriages and 7,639 marriages that took place in other forms*.	2,04,981 marriages; includes 19,648 special marriages and 14,655 marriages that took place in other forms*.	1,35,389 marriages; includes 13,981 special marriages and 7,281 marriages that took place in other forms*.

*Inter-religious marriages that had taken place earlier, but being registered now

- It is estimated that about 30% of marriages in Karnataka are being registered
- Supreme Court, in its ruling in February 2006, directed States and Union government to compulsorily register marriages
- Documents required for marriage registration are marriage invitation, marriage photographs, passport-sized photographs, affidavit and proof of identity, age, and address. For online registration, Aadhaar authentication.

Siddaramaiah cautions oppressed communities against people who divided society into *Chaturvarna*

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing a gathering in Deodurga taluk of Raichur district on Saturday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah cautioned the people of backward classes and oppressed communities, including Kurubas, to be wary of people who have divided society into Chaturvarna for their own gain.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the second-day programme of Halumatha Samskritika Vaibhava held at Kaginele Mahasamsthana Kanaka Gurupeetha at Thinthini bridge in Deodurga taluk of Raichur district on Saturday.

He said that people who did not get education have remained socially and economically backward. "It should not be forgotten that one class has divided society for self-interest and gain. Even today, they are trying this for gain. The oppressed communities should be aware of this," he cautioned.

Recalling the circumstances under which he had to face a village panchayat to get admission to a law course amid his father's opposition, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that he got admission to a law course convincing his father and later entered into politics. "If I had not got admission to law, I would not have become the Chief Minister, standing in front of you," he added.

Appealing to Dalits, people from Backward Classes, Minorities, and the poor to get education, he said: "You should also come to the mainstream by becoming doctors, scientists, or engineers, as these posts are not confined to any particular classes."

The Chief Minister said his government had implemented five guarantee schemes to bring stability to the economic status of the deprived communities and poorer sections. "However, I was subjected to criticism for implementing these schemes. But I don't bother about such criticism. I believe that people from from deprived sections and women are with me," he added.

Racket busted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A unit that was indulging in manufacturing and selling of fake Mysore sandal soaps was unearthed in Hyderabad. Goods worth ₹2 crore were found during the operation.

Newspaper clippings adorn walls of MLC's residence

Dinesh Gooli Gowda has put up over 2,500 newspaper cuttings on his statements published in dailies in the State

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Ministers and legislators are, generally, dependent on libraries of the State secretariat to get paper clippings of their press conferences or press statements held in the past.

But first-time MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda of the Congress has maintained his statements published in Kannada and English papers in a unique way. Instead of keeping them in files, he has designed walls of his two-room residence at the Legislators' Home in Bengaluru with paper clippings.

Newspaper clippings on the walls of Congress MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda's official residence at the Legislators' Home in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The MLC elected from the Local Bodies Constituency in Mandya district in January 2021 has put up on the walls more than 2,500 newspaper cuttings on his statements published in dailies in the State. "Instead of talking, visitors look at walls and read newspaper clippings. This has helped to reduce noise inside the room. It also helped visitors to gain knowledge of various subjects," he quipped on why he chose the design.

On the walls of the official residence (120-121), one can find clippings related to sugarcane growers, Cauvery water row, Mysuru Bengaluru highway, Mekedatu project, agroforestry, wildlife, and procurement prices for paddy and milk etc. His speeches delivered in the Legislative Council also figure on the wall.

"Instead of hanging photographs, paintings, or calendars, I have used walls to display all my press statements issued since I became a member of the Upper House," the MLC said.

Mr. Gowda, who earlier served as media coordinator to former KPCC president G. Parameshwara (now Home Minister) and former Cooperation Minister and BJP MLA S.T. Somashekar, has kept his interest in "news gathering" in this manner. He is known to provide inputs to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, KPCC chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other Ministers when they address the media.

Corrigendum & Addendum to the Advertisement of Karnataka State Open University published on 13-01-2024.

This is with reference to the Admission Notification Advertisement of Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, **published in this Newspaper on Saturday,13th January 2024,** inviting Applications for Ph.D. programs in various subjects. It may be noted that **Applications are being invited for Ph.D. program in HISTORY also. Due to oversight, this subject had not been mentioned along with the other subjects in the said advertisement.** All other information pertaining to the procedure for submission of applications and admission remain the same as mentioned earlier.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/WMC/TKR/3976-78 Date: 12.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tender against the Bid Enquiry No: **SEE/Tr(W&M)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/Enq-28 Dtd: 08.01.2024.** for **Conducting of Modern Detail Survey work** for conversion of following 66kV SC/DC lines using High Performance conductor (Ampacity Equivalent of Drake ACSR and Physical Properties equivalent to Coyote ACSR) in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

Nature of work: (A) Replacement of existing 66KV DC Line with Coyote/Lynx ACSR on 66KV DC Towers from existing 220/66/11KV Antharasahalli R/s to 220/66KV Anchepalya R/s in the existing Corridor for a distance of about 51 kms.

(B) Conversion of SC line on SC towers to DC LILO line on MC towers from Melekote Tap point to existing 66/11kV Melekote substation for a distance of 2.5 kms.

(C) Replacement of existing 66kV LILO line with Coyote ACSR from **(I)** Doddasarangi LILO point to Doddasarangi Substation for a distance of 0.25 kms. **(II)** Honnenahalli LILO point to Honnenahalli Substation for a distance of 5.3 kms. **(III)** Hebbur LILO point to Hebbur substation for a distance of 0.08 kms.

(D) Conversion of SC line with Coyote conductor to DC line on existing DC towers from **(I)** Thimmasandra tap point to existing 66/11kV Thimmasandra substation for a distance of 0.10 kms. **(II)** Bhaktharahalli tap point to existing 66/11kV Bhaktharahalli S/s for a distance of 2.4 kms.

(E) Conversion of SC line on existing SC tower with Coyote conductor to a LILO line on DC towers from Heggere tap point to existing 66/11KV Heggere S/s for a distance of about 3 kms.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **18.01.2024** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (El.), Trans (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Siddaganga Complex, B.H.Road, Tumakuru-2.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Notice is hereby given to Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Mrs. NINA VENKATARAMAN W/O LATE S. VENKATARAMAN,** aged about 51 years, Residing at: W- 10/1354 B, Oak Street, Chinnapallam, Naidupuram, Kodaikenal, Tamilnadu-624101.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, Mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement, or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents & purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as Valid.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the immovable property Residential vacant **site No. 812, bearing Khata No. 634/734/812, in the layout approved by the BDA in several survey Nos at Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and byatarayanapura village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka taluk named as "SAHAKARA NAGAR" presently know as RMS Layout, A, D, E Blocks, Bangalore-560 092** measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 40 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq.ft and bounded on the; **East By :** Site No. 832, **West By :** Road, **North By :** Site No. 813, **South By :** Site No. 811,

SD/- HANUMANTH R., ADVOCATE, Mobile: 96206 97201

Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR RODDAM S/o Surendra Babu Roddam, Residing at #A-1002, 10th Floor Bairavi Cruz Laxury Apartment Chelekeri Main Road, Opp: to St. Rocks church, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043, **Mobile:** 95381 00008

Sri. SUMANTH KUMAR JAYANTHI GUPTHA S/o Jayaprakash Gupta, Residing at Flat No. B-12, Summit Apartment, Sankey Road, Bangalore-560001, **Mobile:** 88844 40341

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

J Mohan (64), Retired Senior Packers Assistant , Despatch, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 13-01-2024. Address: 24 / 22A, Vivek Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099. Contact: 8610482868.

INBRIEF

Revanth meets Goyal, seeks nod for industrial corridor

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has requested Union Minister for Industries and Commerce Piyush Goyal to approve a new industrial corridor connecting Hyderabad to Vijayawada via Miryalaguda. Mr. Reddy emphasised the significance of final clearances for the proposed Hyderabad-Nagpur industrial corridor, estimating a substantial benefit of ₹2,300 crore to Telangana if approved by the Central government.

Kapu leader Padmanabham likely to join Jana Sena Party

Amid speculation that Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabham was all set to join the ruling YSRCP, a Jana Sena Party delegation, led by Bolisetti Srinivas, met the Kapu leader on Saturday. Addressing the media, Mr. Srinivas said, "Mr. Padmanabham has in principle given nod to join the JSP. Party chief Pawan Kalyan has also decided to meet Mr. Padmanabham before January 23 to invite him into the party."

Sharmila invites TDP chief Naidu to her son's wedding

Y.S. Sharmila, who is likely to play a key role in Andhra Pradesh politics after she merged her party, the YSRTP, with the Congress, met former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Hyderabad on Saturday to invite him to her son's wedding. Later, speaking to the media, Ms. Sharmila said Mr. Naidu assured her that he would attend the wedding. Ruling out any political deals with Mr. Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, she said her visit was purely personal.

LDF seeks UDF's support to oppose Centre's policies

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is planning to discuss with Leader of Opposition Satheesan and Deputy Leader of Opposition Kunhalikutty the financial situation of the State tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front government is hoping to rope in the Opposition United Democratic Front's support in a bid to project a united front against the Centre's alleged discriminatory policies towards Kerala.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will hold talks with Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan and Deputy Leader of Opposition P.K. Kunhalikutty at 10 a.m. on Monday.

Mr. Vijayan's office, in a brief note, indicated that the meeting was planned in the context of the Union government's persistent neglect and wrong approaches towards Kerala that had exceeded all limits.

For a cause: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan will discuss the Centre's policies. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Satheesan told *The Hindu* that he and Mr. Kunhalikutty accepted the invitation and would attend the meeting, which is planned in online mode.

"We will attend it since it is meant to discuss the financial situation of the State. At the same time, the UDF is clear as to the reasons for the present financial difficulties," Mr. Satheesan said.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan said Monday's meeting would discuss the overall situation faced by the State. Mr. Jayarajan said there was a need for the ruling and Opposition parties in the State to put up a united front against the unfriendly Central policies.

Multiple contexts, including the extended Centre-State stand-off on specific issues related to State finances, lend significance to Monday's meeting. The State government had accused the UDF and its MPs of failing to support its bid to raise the State's demands before the Centre and in Parliament.

Moral policing, gang rape: FSL team visits spots connected to the crime

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The investigation into the case of "moral policing" and alleged gang rape in Hanagal of Haveri district on January 8 continued with teams of experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) visiting various places connected to the crime to collect samples and evidence.

According to the 26-year old victim's account, seven persons were involved in this case of "moral policing" during which they barged into a private lodge where the couple was staying and thrashed and abused them. As per the victim's statement, she was raped thrice at three different places in the forest area. The police and the FSL team from Davangere visited the spots on Friday and Saturday and conducted the 'panchanama'.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of Police, Eastern Range, Thyagarajan visited the crime scene on Saturday and reviewed the progress of the probe. The police have so far arrested three persons in connection with the case and they are in police custody.

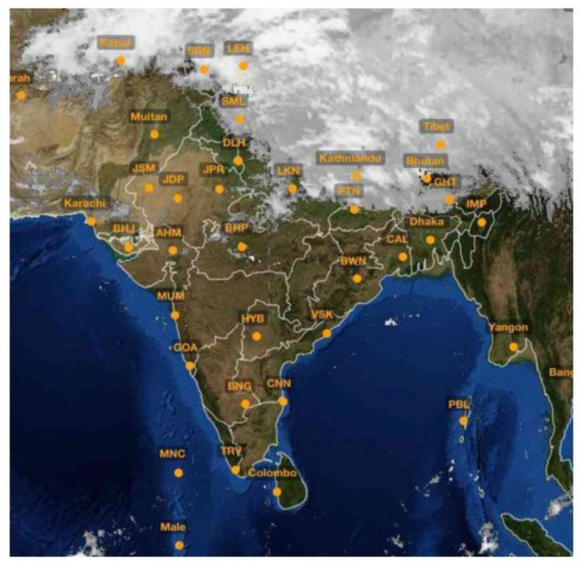
On Saturday former Minister B.C. Patil, accompanied by BJP's district president Saiddaraj Kalkoti and others visited the residence of the victim and handed over a cheque for ₹25,000. The victim told the BJP members that she was offered money and advised not to make rape charges before the police.

Speaking to pressperSons, Mr. Patil expressed shock over the incident and disappointment over the "slow progress" of investigation by the police.

He said that even five days after the incident not all those involved had been traced. He demanded action against the police sub-inspector and circle inspector of police of Hanagal. He alleged that the Congress's pro-minority stand was limited to vote-bank politics and till date none of the party leaders had visited the victim.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Dense/very dense fog likely in many/some/isolated parts over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions likely in some/isolated parts over Chandigarh, Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.6	14.3	Kozhikode	—	33.5	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.8	16.3	Kurnool	—	33.7	20.1
Aizawl	—	22.7	11.9	Lucknow	—	17.1	7.5
Allahabad	—	20.0	8.0	Madurai	—	32.3	20.8
Bengaluru	—	28.0	16.6	Mangaluru	—	32.5	22.3
Bhopal	—	28.6	15.0	Mumbai	—	33.3	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	15.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	24.4
Chandigarh	—	16.4	8.4	New Delhi	—	18.1	3.6
Chennai	—	30.6	24.1	Patna	—	13.8	7.1
Coimbatore	—	30.0	19.0	Port Blair	—	29.8	22.0
Dehradun	—	20.3	6.1	Puducherry	—	30.6	23.0
Gangtok	—	16.4	7.7	Pune	—	33.9	17.8
Goa	—	34.0	22.1	Raipur	—	30.5	16.7
Guwahati	—	24.6	10.0	Ranchi	—	23.2	8.1
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.4	6.8
Hyderabad	—	31.4	19.4	Shimla	—	19.6	8.8
Imphal	—	24.0	4.7	Srinagar	—	15.0	0.2
Jaipur	—	24.6	8.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.0	22.7
Kochi	—	31.8	23.8	Tiruchi	—	31.3	21.6
Kohima	—	16.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.6	22.0
Kolkata	—	23.2	11.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	20	.31	149	132	
Bengaluru	7	11	.44	154	115	
Chennai	8	13	.40	195	189	
Delhi	.28	242	.79	456	425	
Hyderabad	2	.41	.60	125	110	
Kolkata	.14	.60	.37	288	171	
Lucknow	5	.55	.90	335	285	
Mumbai	.12	.92	9	242	148	
Pune	116	164	112	151	121	
Visakhapatnam	.15	.37	.48	276	179	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 406 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 12 fishermen

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUKOTTAI

The Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday arrested 12 fishermen from Pudukottai district on the charge of trespassing into the waters of the island country.

According to police sources, the fishermen had put out to sea on three mechanised boats from the Kottaipattinam fishing harbour. They were intercepted by the Sri Lankan Navy and arrested while fishing mid-sea.

They were were taken to the Kankesanthurai naval base for inquiry, sources said. The arrested fishers are: V. Sankar, B. Badshah, G. Kumar, D. Murugan, A. Samraj, V. Bala, N. Ajith, K. Durai, J. Jackson, V. Nagasamy, R. Balakrishnan, and J. Jeyaraj.

Decked up

Festival's favourite: People admiring 'Gangireddu', colourfully decorated bull, during the Sankaranti celebrations at the Arts and Crafts Village of Shilparamam in Hyderabad on Saturday. NAGARA GOPAL

KSRTC not entitled to compensation for 'loss of revenue' when buses are under repair due to accidents: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and other transport business companies are not entitled to compensation for "loss of revenue" when their buses are kept idle in the garage to repair the damage caused due to road accidents, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar passed the order while rejecting the claim for compensation for "loss of revenue" made by the KSRTC from insurance companies in several cases of road accidents.

The court noted that it is obligatory for the KSRTC or other transport business companies, under Section 72 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and under Rule 69-A of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to maintain a specific number of reserve/spare buses for deploying them in the permitted scheduled routes in case of repair or damage caused due to accidents.

Also, the court pointed out that the law mandates that transport companies have to ply reserve buses to ensure public/passengers of the scheduled bus route are not made to suffer due to non-availability of the designated bus following the accident.

Meanwhile, the court noted that the law also imposes the condition on route permit holders to maintain a specific number of reserve buses. Any individual or company, who holds 51 or more permits for scheduled routes will have to keep the reserve bus not less than 10% of their fleet strength as per Rule 69-A, the court said.

The question of "loss of revenue" does not arise when it is mandatory for the KSRTC and other transport business companies to operate reserve buses, the court made it clear.

Two 8th century inscriptions discovered in a village in A.P.

Sambasiva Rao M.
GUNTUR

A couple of Telugu inscriptions dating back to eighth-ninth century A.D., engraved on fragmented stone slabs, were found in agricultural fields of Bapanapalli village (Ramachandrapuram-Agraharam) in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh.

K. Muniratnam Reddy, Director (Epigraphy), Archaeological Survey of India, Mysuru, told *The Hindu* that these inscriptions seem to record the gift of land and a house to God.

Decoding the text on an inscription, Mr. Reddy said there is a word *'pannasa'* that means wet land. The inscription says that a piece of wet land and a house were donated by one Dandiyama to God Sri Umaravaiyidisvara. The God was praised as *Kailasabhagavanta* or 'Kailasa Siva', as per the inscription. These donations happened when Sri Tripurantaka Bhatalu, bearing the title *Makaradvaja*, was administering the region, Mr. Reddy said.In another inscription, the title of a ruler is mentioned as *Sameyaraditya Trilokaditya,* Mr. Reddy said.

A Telugu inscription found in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He said these inscriptions were found by Thurimella Srinivasa Prasad, a revenue officer at Yerragondapalem. Mr. Prasad said that apart from these two, four other stone inscriptions were identified in the same village.

Canine guardians: unveiling the rituals of Sasthamkavu

Focus of attention in the sacred grove in Kerala is the intriguing display of over several thousand dog figurines, each crafted in mud, offering glimpses of rituals dating back to the 17th century; age of these sculptures is between 100 and 300 years

Sajit C.P.
KASARAGOD

In the heart of Nileshwaram in Kerala's Kasaragod lies Sasthamkavu, a sacred grove. The focus of attention within the enclave is the intriguing display of over several thousand dog figurines, each crafted in mud, offering glimpses of rituals dating back to the 17th century.

Historians estimate the age of these canine sculptures between 100 and 300 years, with some bearing signs of wear and tear due to the passage of time. Historian Nandakumar Koroth says the sacred grove belongs to Karinthalam Tharavadu of the Maniyani community, many of whose ancestors were *kalari gurus.*

Dog figurines that were offered at the Sasthamkavu in Nileshwaram.

According to Ramnathan Karinthalam, a family member, Sasthamkavu is dedicated to Lord Siva and the dog is considered a sacred companion and guardian. The rituals involve an annual vow and a significant tradition, taking place in the Malayalam month of 'Vrischikam' (between November and December) on *Karthika star.*

The enigmatic ritual, believed to have been prevalent till 1960s, experienced a hiatus of over 30 years. It was in 1990 that the family members decided to revive the practices. Dr. Nandakumar says these rituals offer a window to a bygone era.

He says, in the early days, human presence in the surrounding forest was limited to festive occasions, with legends suggesting a palpable fear of constructing houses near the sacred grove. Adjacent to it, a small perennial pool adds to the mystique.

On the designated day, family members clean the sacred grove and, in two groups, engage in a symbolic battle with *karamull*, a medicinal plant, highlighting the bond between the sacred grove and kalari. A dog figurine, crafted by the pottery makers of Erikulam, a nearby area, is carried in a procession and offered at the grove, says Ramnathan Karinthalam.

Sasthamkavu stands out not just as a sacred grove but as a living testament to the rich tapestry of ancient rituals and traditions in the area.

From Page One

Ayodhya mosque to be 'better than Taj'

"A brick with verses of the Koran inscribed over it will travel to Madinah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and to prominent *dargahs* across India," he said, adding that it will finally be laid at the site.

The mosque had been allotted the five-acre plot 25 km away from the heart of Ayodhya, in Dhannipur, in February 2020. The Supreme Court, in November 2019, had given way to the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, at the site where Hindu fundamentalists had brought down the 16th century Babri Masjid in December 1992.

Water-and-light show

A water-and-light show is also being planned at the mosque. The Uttar Pradesh government organises one at the Sarayu river ghat in Ayodhya, where the Ramayana plays out every evening. "We will have water playing in sync with the *azan* (prayers) inside the mosque. The lights of the mosque will come on at sunset and go off at sunrise automatically. We will also have a giant fish aquarium, bigger than that of Dubai, for the youth," said Mr. Shaikh.

Special songs

Special songs are being recorded ahead of the mosque construction. Mr. Shaikh said Vijay Vikram Singh, the voice-over artist made popular by the TV series *Bigg Boss*, will be engaged to make small videos related to the mosque, for quick circulation. Simultaneously, the Ram temple construction committee is planning to make a similar film, with a voice-over by Amitabh Bachchan.

Mr. Shaikh was appointed in this role by Zufar Ahmad Faruqi, the president of the IICF, the trust formed by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, to build the mosque in Ayodhya. He was also made a trustee in the IIFC and one of its advisors last year. Mr. Shaikh, who is the former Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Minorities, also objected to the name of the mosque, Masjid-e-Ayodhya, and has changed it to Muhammad Bin Abdullah Masjid, named after The Prophet.

He clarified that the IIFC will not go door-to-door for donations, but will launch a website in late February or early March, with QR codes for easy donation. This is unlike the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's 45-day-long nationwide Ram Temple Nidhi Samarpan campaign in 2021, to fundraise for the Ram temple. The organisation had collected about ₹2,100 crore from going door-to-door.

INDIA picks Congress chief as chairperson

"The [Bihar] CM has so far not given his approval to the proposal [of making him the convener]," Mr. Jha told reporters in Patna. "We will let you know after discussing the matter within the party," he added.

Dismissing suggestions that Mr. Kumar was upset over Mr. Kharge being projected as the head of the bloc, Mr. Jha said, "On the contrary, it was our honourable CM himself who had suggested that someone from the Congress head the coalition."

Top Congress leaders in the meeting included Mr. Kharge, parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal. Other top Opposition leaders included Dravida Munnetra Kazhagham (DMK) chief and Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Aam Admi Party (AAP) convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja and CPI (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. Mr. Kharge started the proceedings by informing the INDIA partners of the Congress decision to decline the invitation to the upcoming consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

Nitish unenthusiastic

Mr. Yechury asked whether the appointment of a chairperson and convener for the alliance was part of the meeting's agenda. There was unanimity among everyone present about making the Bihar CM the convener, but Mr. Kumar himself did not show much interest. He argued that anyone could be considered for the role, including Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) stalwart Lalu Prasad Yadav.

However, several leaders used the online meeting for some plain speaking. Mr. Raja stressed the need to accommodate the Left parties in seat-sharing talks and cautioned that differences among INDIA constituents should not give the BJP an advantage in West Bengal and Kerala.

Mr. Kejriwal pointed out that Congress leaders were resorting to public criticism of the AAP even when the two parties were engaged in seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Gandhi then intervened to stress that "local issues" should not affect the alliance's national plans.

By Saturday evening, the Congress released photographs of Mr. Kejriwal, accompanied by AAP leader Raghav Chadha, holding discussions with Mr. Kharge at the Congress chief's official residence. Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Venugopal were both present as well.

During the meeting, Mr. Soren, without naming Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, referred to Congress leaders who had suggested the dismissal of the Trinamool government in Bengal over Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids and subsequent attacks on the ED teams. Mr. Venugopal quickly responded, saying that "it was not the official stand of the Congress".

NIA shares inputs with FBI on San Francisco attack

During the visit of a U.S. delegation led by FBI Director, the senior agency officials held a detailed discussion on the issue; he told them that the FBI was aggressively investigating the attack

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has shared its findings with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the March 2023 attack on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, to ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted for the offence expeditiously.

During the visit of a U.S. delegation led by FBI Director Christopher A. Wray about a month ago, the senior agency officials had held a detailed discussion on the issue. They apprised the delegation of the inputs gathered by the NIA, including the information on the nexus between terrorists and members of organised criminal syndicates.

NIA Director-General Dinkar Gupta and FBI Director Christopher A. Wray during a meeting in New Delhi on December 12. PTI

'Aggressively probing'

Mr. Wray had informed the officials that the FBI was aggressively probing the attack. It is learnt that the FBI case has not yet reached the prosecution stage and investigations are still under way.

In September 2023, the NIA released the photographs of 10 persons wanted for the attack and vandalism at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. It had issued three separate "Request for Identification & Information" notices seeking information that could lead to the arrest or detention of the accused persons.

The agency registered the case in June 2023 under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act to investigate the attack that took place on the intervening night of March 18 and 19.

Some pro-Khalistan entities had allegedly illegally entered the consulate premises and tried to set it ablaze.

The same day, slogan-shouting Khalistan supporters broke through the makeshift security barriers installed by the local police and put up two pro-Khalistan flags on the consulate premises damaging the building, assaulting and injuring some consulate officials.

In another case related to the attack on the High Commission of India in London on March 19 last year, the NIA questioned some persons linked to the case, during their visit to India.

In August 2023, the agency raided 31 locations related to the suspects and their associates in Punjab and Haryana.

A group of about 50 pro-Khalistan persons had attacked the High Commission, causing disrespect to the Indian National flag, damaging public property and injuring some officials.

The NIA found that the attack had been organised allegedly by Gurcharan Singh of Dal Khalsa, U.K.; Avtar Singh Khanda (who recently died) of the Khalistan Liberation Force; one Jasvir Singh, and their associates.

An NIA team visited the U.K. in May last year as part of the investigations into the case. Based on "crowd-sourced information", it also identified the attackers.

Army adopts Topa Pir as model village after civilian deaths

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Security personnel carry out a search operation near Poonch on Saturday. ANI

The Army has rolled out fresh measures to reach out to the people in Pir Panjal valley, which has turned into a new battleground in Jammu and Kashmir, and started its initiative by adopting Topa Pir village, where three civilians allegedly died from torture in custody, as a model village.

The Army has adopted Topa Pir village in Poonch district as a model village under the Sadbhavana scheme, an Army spokesman said. The village hit the headlines as a video of the alleged torture of civilians went viral after four soldiers were killed in an ambush by militants in the Dera Ki Gali area on December 21. Three civilians were found dead after they were taken into custody for questioning by the Army. The incident evoked widespread criticism and dented the goodwill among the Gujjars and Bakarwals, who inhabit areas close to the Line of Control (LoC) in the region.

Three Army officers were attached pending inquiry. Official sources said Lieutenant-General Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the White Knight Corps, incharge of the Pir Panjal valley, apprised of the Army's outreach to local people J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday, besides briefing him about the current security situation.

Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, along with Chinar Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Rajeev Ghai, visited forward battalions in the Machhal sector in the Kashmir Valley. "The Army Commander interacted with troops and personnel of Rashtriya Rifles, J-K Police, BSF and Border Roads Organisation and commended them for their persistent vigilance and compelling contribution to maintaining lasting peace in the region," the Army said.

Received details from India on social security pact, more work required on subject: USTR

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Katherine Tai, on Saturday said the U.S. had received information from India recently on the proposed social security agreement and there was much work to be done on the subject.

Social security totalisation agreement is one of the key asks from the Indian side in the meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) here, as it will significantly contribute towards enhancing services trade between countries and help Indian IT professionals who temporarily work in the U.S. India has submitted all the relevant data on its social security schemes which was sought by the U.S. to start negotiations on the agreement.

"... We have the information and the ball is back in our court, but it's just landed in our court. So there is a lot more work to do" to facilitate the conversation on India's proposal, Ms. Tai told presspersons. She was here for the 14th TPF meeting. Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Ms. Tai co-chaired the TPF meeting.

Under the agreement, an expatriate in either country need not contribute to the social security scheme of the host country. It will benefit a number of Indians, particularly

Katherine Tai

from the IT sector, who are working in America and paying social security but are unable to get any benefit out of it.

Asked about the issues being raised by the U.S. side on India's import management system for specified IT hardware, Ms. Tai said they had asked India to hold consultations with them and other stakeholders on such matters. She added that the consultation would ensure that such decisions did not disrupt the regulatory environment, which is important for both sides.

Mr. Goyal, at the TPF meeting, elaborated on India's objectives, including those related to national security concerns on the matter.

A joint statement issued after the TPF meeting said the two Ministers expressed commitment to launch future joint initiatives in certain areas, including critical minerals and trade in high-tech products, in which the U.S. and India will develop a forward-looking road map for enhanced cooperation.

As part of the road map, she said, "We are going to begin with fact-finding exploration and establishing a common vocabulary."

Asked about agriculture-related issues on both sides, the USTR said America was looking at greater market access for products such as almonds, walnuts, blueberries, and cranberries.

India has issues with regard to grapes, mangoes and pomegranates in the U.S. market.

On India's concerns over delays in the visa process for Indian businesses, Ms. Tai said the USTR office facilitated the conversation on this subject with the parts of the U.S. administration that were responsible for these issues.

7-month-old boy mauled to death by stray dogs in Bhopal

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

A seven-month old boy died here after he was brutally mauled by two or three stray dogs in a residential locality where his mother worked as cleaning staff, the police said on Saturday. According to the police, the attack took place on the afternoon of January 10.

"She must have gone inside for work when two or three dogs dragged the child...," a police officer told *The Hindu*.

The child was taken to a nearby hospital but it was declared dead when brought in, the officer added.

Near-complete dam of Ken-Betwa project yet to get environmental nod

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A major dam project of the Madhya Pradesh government, which is part of the Centre's marquee Ken-Betwa river interlinking project, was found to be in violation of environment clearance laws by an expert committee of the Union Environment Ministry, *The Hindu* has learnt from a perusal of publicly available documents.

The Centre has invoked a set of controversial orders whose legality is being examined by the Supreme Court. The sequence of events demonstrates the confusion among the States in interpreting the Centre's environment clearance processes and how this results in *ad-hoc* fixes being applied as amends.

In 2019, the Madhya Pradesh government began constructing the Lower Orr dam - part of the second phase of the Centre's ambitious Ken-Betwa river interlinking project - only to be told by an expert appraisal committee (EAC), tasked with assessing the environmental impact of projects, in 2022 that the State had not taken a formal clearance from the Environment Ministry for the project. The expert committee, in December 2022, recommended that the Environment Ministry "consider taking necessary action on the violation against the project proponent as per law".

In hope: The Ken-Betwa interlinking project involves transferring surplus water from the Ken river to the Betwa. FILE PHOTO

The project proponent here was the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Jal Shakti Ministry body. Following a site visit, the committee reported that about 82% of the dam and 33.5% of the canal network had been completed without a clearance from the Ministry. The NWDA also did not have a 'consent to operate' certificate.

The EAC recommended that the project developers undertake a fresh environment appraisal process, assess the ecological damage that had ensued and lay out a 'damage restoration' plan. These recommendations derive from a slew of executive orders issued by the Environment Ministry in 2017, 2021 and 2022 whereby a standard operating procedure was put in place to allow companies - private and State-led - who had violated the terms of their environment clearance or were operating without one, to legalise their activities.

Along with the fresh set of conditions, the new orders required companies to pay a fine that worked out to a percentage of the cost and turnover of the commissioned projects.

Nearly a year after this recommendation, in a meeting of the EAC in December 2023, the body recommended that the Lower Orr project be subject to a fresh evaluation and that the NWDA submit more data calculating the potential damage that may have ensued from the construction. The Supreme Court, on January 2 this year, put all orders of the Ministry on hold as part of the proceedings in another case filed by NGO Vanshakti where such post-facto clearances accorded to mining companies have been challenged. The next hearing of this case is scheduled in four weeks.

Union government reconstitutes EPFO governing body

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Union government reconstituted the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) by excluding representatives of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) from the panel. The All India Manufacturers Association, an organisation of employers started by legendary engineer M. Visvesvaraya in 1941, also could not find a place on the new panel. Laghu Udyog Bharati, an organisation of employers supported by the RSS, has managed to send two members to the panel, said the notification released by the Union Labour Ministry on Saturday. The new panel will get a five-year tenure. Both the employees and the employers have 10 representatives each in the panel, apart from representatives of the Union and State Labour departments. Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav is the Chairman of the CBT.

INTUC president G. Sanjeeva Reddy said the Centre had done it an injustice. "We represent millions of workers. By excluding us, the Centre has excluded workers," he said. On the outgoing panel, three posts had been kept vacant for the INTUC. The Centre has been claiming that INTUC is not included in government panels as there are several different groups claiming leadership over it.

Government sources indicated that the selection of members was done after consultation with the trade unions. In the place of INTUC, AITUC and AIUTUC, the Centre has newly inducted to the panel the Trade Union Coordination Centre, Self Employed Women's Association and the National Front of Indian Trade Unions.

Not more than two seats for Cong., insists Trinamool

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee, nephew of party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Saturday made a sharp attack on the Congress, exposing the frosty relations between the two parties.

Mr. Banerjee mocked the Congress's demand for Lok Sabha seats in Bengal as part of an alliance with the Trinamool when it was losing ground in its earlier strongholds like Assam.

His attack came on a day when Ms. Banerjee skipped a virtual meeting of INDIA bloc leaders.

Referring to the Trinamool's performance in Assam's North Cachar Autonomous Hill District Council elections, Mr. Banerjee said it contested the council polls for the first time but got a higher vote share (12.4%) in the contested seats than the Congress (8.87%). The Trinamool refused to participate in seat-sharing talks with the Congress, and said that it would not offer more than two seats.

Nyay Yatra will highlight 10 years of injustice: Congress

The biggest challenge is that the country is facing an ideology that believes in polarisation, economic inequalities and political authoritarianism, says Congress leader Jairam Ramesh

The Hindu Bureau
IMPHAL

Clearing the air: Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh holding a press conference over the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, in Imphal on Saturday. PTI

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from Manipur to Mumbai will highlight *anyay kaal* (period of injustice) during the 10 years of the Narendra Modi government, the Congress said on Saturday, ahead of its formal launch.

Addressing a press conference in Manipur's capital, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said the biggest challenge before the country was an ideology that believed in polarisation, economic inequalities and political authoritarianism.

Mr. Ramesh said that yatra was not an electoral venture, but was aimed at protecting and preserving the constitutional values.

"The Prime Minister shows golden dreams of *amrit kaal* but what is the reality of the last 10 years – *anyay kaal*. No mention of *anyay kaal* is made while big boasts of *amrit kaal* are projected," he said.

Former Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, State party chief Keisham Meghachandra Singh and Congress Working Committee member Gaikhangam were present.

'Not electoral'

"The yatra is being taken out keeping in mind the political, economic and social injustices committed in the last 10 years. This is a yatra by a political party. It is an ideological yatra and not an electoral one," Mr Ramesh said.

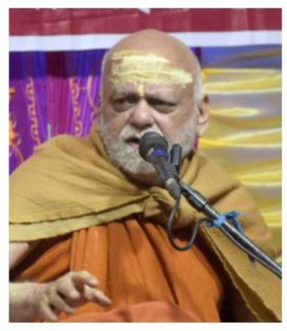
The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will cover more than 6,500 km and will pass through 100 Lok Sabha constituencies across 15 States.

Together, these States account for 355 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats. The yatra will be flagged off from a private ground in Manipur's Thoubal district, instead of Imphal, the initial choice as a venue, by party president Mallikarjun Kharge. The yatra will end in Mumbai on March 20 or 21 after completing the journey in 67 days and will be covered mostly on a customised bus with five-seven km stretches of *padayatra*.

The Congress has said that it is taking out the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra as the government did not give it a chance to raise people's issues in Parliament and the initiative is aimed at re-establishing the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution.

Politics not desirable in religious events, says Shankaracharya

The Hindu Bureau
SAGAR (WEST BENGAL)



Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati

Reiterating his stand that he will not participate in the '*Pran Pratishtha*' of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati on Saturday said that political interference in religious and spiritual areas was not desirable, and that even the Constitution did not allow this.

"Politicians have their limits and they have responsibility under the Constitution. There are rules and restrictions in religious and spiritual domain and these rules should be followed. Interfering in every area by politicians is insanity," the Shankaracharya said.

He made these remarks at the Ganga Sagar Mela in West Bengal where he had come to participate in the annual ritualistic bath on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

He told presspersons that as a Shankaracharya he also has certain limitations as to where he can go, what he can interfere with, and what he can eat.

The Shankaracharya made it clear that according to him, as far as '*murti pratishtha*' is concerned, there are laid-down rules in scriptures and the head of state or the Prime Minister has to follow these rules.

"Overstepping these rules for propagating one's name is an act of rebellion against God... and going down the path of destruction," Puri Shankaracharya said.

He also made it clear that he is not upset with Ayodhya and he keeps going there but will not participate in the '*Pran Pratishtha*' of the Ram Mandir on January 22.

Uddhav wants Murmu to perform Ram Temple rites

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday demanded that President Droupadi Murmu be asked to perform the January 22 consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya as it was a matter of "national pride" and pertained to the "country's self-respect".

The former Maharashtra Chief Minister also wrote to President Murmu, inviting her to participate in an aarti at the Kalaram temple in Nashik on January 22, the day of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Taking potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mr. Thackeray wryly remarked that he hoped "there [would] be less of the PM in the Ram Mandir" and more idols of Lord Rama.

Mr. Thackeray observed that after the Somnath temple in Gujarat was restored, the formal ceremony (in 1951) was attended by the country's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Deora denies joining Shinde-led Sena, says in talks with loyalists

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Uddhav faction plans to retain Mumbai South constiuency, irking several leaders of the Congress

The rift between the Shiv Sena Uddhav faction and the Congress over the Mumbai South Lok Sabha constituency has sparked intense speculation that former MP Milind Deora is defecting from the Congress to the Eknath Shinde-led Sena.

While Mr. Deora, who won the Mumbai South Lok Sabha seat in 2004 and 2009, dismissed speculation on Saturday, he told presspersons on Saturday that he was holding discussions with his supporters.

"I am listening to my supporters. I have not taken any decision yet," the Congress leader said.

Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut recently said his party was firm on contesting four seats in Mumbai city. Congress leaders like Mr. Deora and Sanjay Nirupam said the demand was excessive given that its vote base had fragmented following the Sena split. The Mumbai South seat is now held by Arvind Sawant of the Uddhav faction.

Minister Uday Samant said the Shinde-led Sena would welcome a leader of Mr. Deora's capabilities.

"CM Eknath Shinde is working for the public. And if he gets the support of a leader like Milind Deora, then the Shiv Sena can expand in Mumbai in a big way. He is welcome to join us by keeping Bal Thackeray's ideals in front of him," Mr. Samant said.

Maharashtra Leader of the Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar dubbed rumours of Mr. Deora's potential defection as "baseless".

Jaishankar to visit Iran as U.S., U.K. target Houthis

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Solid ties: S. Jaishankar interacting with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during a 2022 visit, in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Tehran on Sunday and Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Saturday. The visit indicates continued engagement between New Delhi and Tehran even as the Iranian government faces verbal attacks from Israel, India's other partner in the region.

The Ministry's announcement said Dr. Jaishankar would meet his counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, to discuss "bilateral, regional and global issues". This is the first Minister-level visit to Iran from India since the beginning of the Gaza crisis on October 7. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra visited Tehran on November 26 to participate in the Foreign Office Consultation. Iran recently included India among countries whose citizens will not require a visa to travel to the country.

Relation on track

India's engagement with Iran has remained on track despite continuous criticism of Tehran by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

India condemned the terrorist attack in Iran's Kerman that claimed more than a hundred lives.

Significantly, when an "explosion-like" incident took place near the Embassy of Israel in Delhi on December 26, online supporters of Israel quickly blamed Iran for it. India has not revealed any Iranian connection to that incident so far.

Dr. Jaishankar's visit is also significant as it comes two days after the U.S. and U.K. began bombing "Houthi controlled areas of Yemen". A joint statement by the mainly western alliance said the actions were in line with the "broad consensus" reached at the UN Security Council meeting on December 19, 2023, which was attended by 44 countries. The Indian side has not made any official comment in support of the operation. On its part, India has deployed 10 ships in the overall Arabian Sea area indicating that it is willing to safeguard its commercial interest in the region separately from any kind of alliance with any of its partner countries in or outside the region.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-CN-CLT-OT-01-2024
DATED: 12/01/2024

Name of the work: Doubling of track between MAJN-PNMB - Proposed housekeeping, hospitality services and Directional works in the Deputy Chief Engineer's office at Mangaluru, officers rest house / construction / Mangaluru and its premises for a period of 2 Years.

Tender Value: ₹. 11.97 lakhs

Completion Period: 24 months

Date of Opening: 05/02/2024 @ 12.30 hrs

Complete details & tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/ Construction, Kozhikode.

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 429/SE/PHC/ TSR/2023-24, **1. JJM -** WSS to Adatt, Avannur, Tholur, Kaiparambu, Manalur, Arimbur, Venkidangu, M.G Kavu, Kolazhy G.P and Medical College Panchayaths in Thrissur District- - Laying of Pipes for Clear Water Gravity Main from 100 MLD Scheme
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 17,700/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 24-01-2024, 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0487 – 2423230, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thrissur
KWA-JB-GL-6-2068-2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO: GEM/2024/B/4468050
Dt: 11.01.2024

Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem-5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.gem.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) GEM/2024/B/4468050 dt:11.01.2024 Deployment of Contractual Assistants in Power Cars of various trains to assist onboard Technicians in carrying out electrical and power car duties of Power Cars and LSLRD of Coimbatore trains for the period of one year	Approx. cost - ₹ 37,99,080/- EMD - ₹ 75,982/- Completion Period - 12 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date	**12.00hrs. on 10.02.2024**
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	**12.30hrs. on 10.02.2024**

All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.gem.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Salem

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

Government of Uttar Pradesh
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007.

No. - 2413 /Pur.Cell/E-Tender/Medicine-III/2023-24, Dated: 10 January 2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited through this Notice for Invitation of e-Tender for rate approval of Veterinary Medicines/Vitamins/ Hormones etc.(As per Schedules of requirement mentioned in table below) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. for financial year 2023-24) from (1) Sole manufacturers, (2) Repacking license holders, (3) such Third party manufacturers (who are producing for Tenderer), (4) loan licensee and (5) bearer of import license; who have minimum 05 years manufacturing experience for the quoted medicines. Tenderer should not be blacklisted or debarred in any state/ department/government institution in the country for last 02 years and quoted products are not found Not of Standard Quality by the Competent Authority for last 3 years. If the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or any other investigating agency recommends the existing rate contract of the concerned firms for staying or cancellation, the action shall be taken accordingly as per U.P. Procurement Manual 2016. Tenderer should have valid Manufacturing License, Non-Conviction Certificate, Performance Certificate, Market Standing Certificate, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and ISO certificates and minimum 50% of the total turnover of quoted products should be sold in open market; and other eligibility as per detailed tender documents. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year. MSME/SSI units of U.P. are exempted from Turnover condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P. & Government of India Undertakings (C.P.S.E.) will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering (documentary proof for registration in U.P. Electronics Corporation Ltd.,(UPLC), Lucknow is necessary to enclose) and having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No. 3157/Pur.Cell/Kra,Ni./E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Detailed Terms and Conditions and other details alongwith proforma for Tender Documents would be available on the departmental website http://animalhusb.up.nic.in and U.P. Govt. eTender portal http://etender.up.nic.in within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents Rs.
Tender for approval of rate of Medicines/Vitamins/Hormones etc. (for financial years 2023-24) as per schedule of requirement given below- 1. A-General Medicines 2. B-Anthelmentics / Antihaemoprotozoans / Coccidiostat / Acaricides / Ecto- parasitic / Maggoticide drugs 3. C-Disinfectants/Local Antiseptics/Sanitizers. 4. D-Antibiotics/Anti Fungal & Sulpha Drugs. 5. E-Metabolic Restorative & Mineral Supplements (oral liquids/ powders/ tablets/bolus/ injections/ infusions 6. F-Intra Mammary Infusions/Intra unterine & Uterine Activities/ Applicants for skin diseases, intrauterine drugs (Anitbiotics, Antiseptic and Anti fungal drug) 7. G -Infusions 8. H-Hormones and Oestrus Inducers 9. I-Analgesic, Antipyretics, Anti-inflamatory antisposmodics, Anti Diarrhoeal, Diauretics) 10. J-Tranquilizers,preanaesthetics,anaesthetics,antiemetics, antacids. 11. K- Anti allergic, anti histaminics, corticosteroids & Haemostatics	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs.1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 25000.00 + GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow. The scanned copy of the Cost of Tender Form and e-Bid Security/EMD must be submitted along with the e- Bid and the original should reach to Director, Disease Control & Farms, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow preferably on or before end date of submission of e-Bid but in any case, not later than 5 days after end date of submission of e-bid. Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-Tender website http://etender.up.nic.in.

The Scheduled dates and time for the e-Tender are:-

1- Availability of Online Tender Forms	:	Date 15-01-2024 from 04.30 PM
2- Submission of Online Tender Forms start date	:	Date 15-01-2024 from 06.00 PM
3- Pre Bid Meeting	:	Date 22-01-2024 at 03.00 PM
4- Last Date for online submission of tender form	:	Date 30-01-2024 up to 12.00 PM
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids)	:	Date 30-01-2024 at 03.30 PM

UPID RO NO- 200709
Date: 12.01.2024

Director,
Disease Control & Farms
Animal Husbandry, U.P.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-32/33/34/495/2023-24 **Date: 12.01.2024**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-I (Civil) Contractors registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: EP-32 (1) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-1 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District, (2) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-2 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District, (3) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-3 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District, (4) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-4 in Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District. **EP-33** (1) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-1 in Nandur Kesartagi 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kalaburgi Taluk & District (2) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-2, Nandur Kesartagi 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kalaburgi Taluk & District, (3) Formation of Industrial Layout at Sector-3, Nandur Kesartagi 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kalaburgi Taluk & District. **EP-34** (1) Upgradation of Roads & Re-construction of RCC side drains & culverts in Hirehalli Industrial Area, Tumakuru Taluk & Tumakuru District.

For EP-32: Last date for submission of bids is: **30.01.2024 upto 04:30 pm**

For EP-33: Last date for submission of bids is: **29.01.2024 upto 04:30 pm**

For EP-34: Last date for submission of bids is: **31.01.2024 upto 04:30 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3044/Zen/2023-24

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited re-invites tender vide Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT45/CALL-2 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform from eligible bidders for the **"Supply, Integration, Warranty & On-site Maintenance of Android OS based Integrated Spot Billing Device (SBD), Connectivity, Software, Thermal paper and allied services for Spot Billing in RAPDRP/IPDS area (Urban Area)".**

Bid Documents available: 13.01.2024 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 20.01.2024, 16:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 22.01.2024, 14:45 Hrs.

The details of the tender and the bidding documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **13.01.2024.** Aspiring bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk +918046010000, +918068948777 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Sd/-
The General Manager (Elec.), Customer Relations, BESCOM

INBRIEF

India lodges protest with U.K. over visit of envoy to PoK

India has registered a strong protest with the U.K. over the visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) by its High Commissioner to Islamabad Jane Marriott (in picture) along with another British official. The Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday that such "infringement" of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is "unacceptable". "India has taken a serious note of the highly objectionable visit of the British High Commissioner in Islamabad, along with a U.K. Foreign Office official, to PoK on January 10... Foreign Secretary has lodged a strong protest with the British High Commissioner in India on this infringement," the MEA said. PTI

Main accused in rape, murder of Mahadalit girl arrested

The main accused in the alleged rape of two Mahadalit girls, and murder of one of them, in Phulwarisharif town of Bihar has been arrested, the police said on Saturday. The accused is 50-year-old Devanand Rai, alias Bhokul, Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Rajeev Mishra said. He said the accused confessed to the crime and also revealed that he committed rape earlier too. The incident on January 8 led to a political uproar in Bihar with the Opposition attacking the Nitish Kumar government. The deceased was eight-years-old. The girl who survived is 12 and has been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Alliance Air starts additional flights to Lakshadweep

Due to a surge in the number of passengers willing to visit Lakshadweep amid the India-Maldives row, Alliance Air, the only airline that operates to Lakshadweep, has started additional flights between Kochi and Agatti. A senior official of Alliance Air said the additional flights will operate two days a week – Sunday and Wednesday. The airline operates 70-seater aircraft to the island daily. It is running in full capacity and all tickets till March have been sold out, an official said."We are getting queries on phone and social media regarding tickets. Following the huge demand for tickets, an additional flight has been added. If required, frequency will be increased," the official said. PTI

Mauritius grants special break to officials for temple event

In a significant move, the Mauritian government has decided to grant a one-off special leave for two hours to public servants of the Hindu faith to attend prayers marking the "landmark" inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22. The ceremony will be telecast live. "Cabinet has agreed to the grant of a one-off special leave of two hours on Monday 22 January 2024 from 14:00 hours to public officers of Hindu faith, subject to exigencies of service, in the context of the inauguration of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir in India, which is a landmark event as it symbolises the return of Lord Ram in Ayodhya," the Mauritian Cabinet led by Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth said on Friday. PTI

SUDOKU

2				7	1		9	
	5					7		1
			9	5				
4					5		1	2
				4				
9	3		2					6
				8	4			
5		3					4	
	4		7	2				8

No.SS6038 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	7	4	6	5	2	8	1
2	4	8	9	1	3	6	5	7
5	6	1	7	2	8	3	9	4
4	3	9	1	5	2	7	6	8
6	7	2	8	4	9	5	1	3
1	8	5	3	7	6	9	4	2
8	5	6	2	3	4	1	7	9
7	2	4	6	9	1	8	3	5
9	1	3	5	8	7	4	2	6

Centre yet to take a call on beginning HPV vaccination campaign for girls

The government's immunisation advisory group has recommended vaccination for girls as part of the universal immunisation programme; the WHO says the HPV vaccine is effective for the prevention of HPV serotypes 16 and 18

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry said on Saturday that it was yet to take a decision on starting a vaccination campaign against human papillomavirus (HPV), despite reports that it is set to offer the vaccine from the second quarter of this year. The National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation (NTAGI) has recommended vaccination for adolescent girls between the ages of nine and 14.

The Ministry earlier said in June 2022 that after evaluating the fresh evidence on the cervical cancer burden and the effectiveness of a single dose of HPV vaccine, including clinical trial data and Sikkim's experience with the vaccine, the NTAGI recommended the vaccine's inclusion in the government's universal immunisation programme.

This would involve a one-time catch-up shot for girls in the nine-to-14 age group, followed by a routine introduction for others at the age of nine.

Doctors say that HPV vaccine is effective and can prevent more than 90% of HPV-attributable cancers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) has said that the HPV vaccine is highly effective for the prevention of HPV serotypes 16 and 18, which cause 70% of cervical cancer.

'Fishy' vaccine trials

In India, the vaccine faced a major backlash over a decade ago, and the government got a rap on the knuckles from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its 2013 report, titled "Alleged irregularities in the conduct of studies using human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine by PATH in India''.

The committee took note of the reported deaths of some girls and adolescents in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh following HPV vaccine trials carried out by an American agency, the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), in collaboration with the government. The committee had found the entire matter "very intriguing and fishy". It observed that the choice of countries, and population groups, with unlimited market potential and opportunities in universal immunisation programmes, were all pointers to a well-planned scheme to commercially exploit the situation.

It added that if PATH had then been successful in getting the HPV vaccine included in the universal immunisation programme of countries such as India, this would have generated windfall profits for the vaccine's manufacturers by way of automatic sales, year after year, without any promotional or marketing expenses.

The project was reportedly funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, an American charity.

Globally, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women. In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women, and India contributes to the largest proportion of the global cervical cancer burden, according to the Union government's data.

The vaccination can be provided at a health facility, while for out-of-school girls, the campaign can be conducted through community outreach and mobile teams, the Ministry had said while alerting State governments to its efforts to initiate the campaign.

Effective shield

"HPV vaccination works well and has the potential to prevent more than 90% of HPV attributable cancers," said Sanjeev Kumar, a surgical oncologist at Manipal Hospital in Delhi.

"Since HPV vaccination was first recommended in 2006, around 125 countries have introduced HPV vaccines, offering access to one in three girls aged 9 to 14 worldwide. Trials conducted in India and abroad have results that show an 81% reduced risk of HPV-associated cancer in vaccinated women," Mr.. Kumar said.

ED arrests two more accused in Mahadev betting case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested two persons in connection with the Mahadev Online Book betting app case.

The accused have been identified as Nitin Tibrewal and Amit Agrawal. They were produced before a Raipur special court which sent them to ED custody till January 17.

The agency said Mr. Tibrewal is the majority shareholder of Techpro IT Solutions Limited, which was allegedly being used as a front for the Mahadev Online Book and for investing the proceeds of crime generated out of illegal operations in India by way of Foreign Portfolio Investment. "Nitin Tebriwal tried to conceal this fact despite opportunities granted to him. He also did not reveal his foreign bank accounts and assets before the ED which have been discovered during the probe," it said. He has been accused of knowingly assisting in layering the proceeds of crime by investing it in his name and through the associated entities.

Kejriwal receives fourth summons from ED in Delhi excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued its fourth summons to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to appear before the agency and record his statement in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, according to ED officials.

Mr. Kejriwal, who skipped the first three summons, has been asked to appear before the investigating team on January 18. The CM is unlikely to appear before the agency as he had already announced a visit to Goa during the same time, according to AAP sources. However, when asked whether the CM would appear before the agency, the AAP's Delhi convener, Gopal Rai, did not give a conclusive answer, saying, "We will take advice from our legal advisers and act as per law".

Mr. Rai said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had sent the fourth summons through the ED to stop Mr. Kejriwal from preparing and campaigning for the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

"On Friday, the AAP announced Arvind Kejriwal *ji*'s three-day visit to Goa from January 18 for the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections and on Saturday, there is news in media that ED has sent summons to him to appear before it on January 18. This is no coincidence," Mr. Rai told presspersons.

Arvind Kejriwal

He alleged that the BJP did not want any Opposition leader to campaign for the poll and therefore, has made the ED its weapon.

"Our request is that ED should avoid becoming a frontal organisation of the BJP and being politically misused by it. And ED should stop sending these illegal notices," Mr. Rai said.

'Fabricated case'

The case against the AAP supremo is based on a first information report (FIR) filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging multiple irregularities in the formation and implementation of the Delhi excise policy (2021-22). The policy was withdrawn after allegations of corruption were made.

Following a summons by the CBI, Mr. Kejriwal appeared before the agency on April 16 and was questioned for nine hours. Speaking to the media after the questioning, the CM alleged that the entire case was fabricated and that the agencies had no proof of wrongdoing. The case was built to bring the AAP down, he said.

Two senior AAP leaders – Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh – are already under judicial custody in the case. Mr. Sisodia, then Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, was arrested by the CBI on February 26 following several rounds of questioning. On October 5, the ED arrested Mr. Singh, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

Mr. Kejriwal was first summoned by the ED on November 2, but did not appear for questioning. Instead, he wrote to the ED, saying that the summons was "unsustainable in law" and "motivated".

He was summoned for a second time to appear before the ED on December 21. Again, he did not appear, and wrote to the agency saying that the summons had been issued at the behest of his political rivals and was not in consonance with the law. He requested the agency to withdraw the summons.

The AAP chief was summoned for a third time to appear before the agency on January 3, but he skipped that too and wrote to the agency reiterating that the summons was "motivated" and seemed to be a "fishing exercise".

Acting like 'fugitive'

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that Mr. Kejriwal was behaving like an "economic fugitive", given the way he offered a new excuse to avoid investigation after every summons of the ED.

"The people of the country had seen people like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya behaving like this who later fled the country. The people of Delhi are surprised that Arvind Kejriwal allowed his minister Manish Sisodia and MP Sanjay Singh to join the investigation of the liquor scam but when the investigation his reached his doorstep, he is finding faults in the investigation process and trying to give it a political colour," Mr. Sachdeva said.

Centre planning to promote less-known tourist attractions

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Union Tourism Ministry is creating awareness of less-known tourist attractions in the country by holding special festivals and conventions at these places every three or four months. Sources in the Ministry say the events will be held in collaboration with the State governments at places that are not so popular with tourists as yet but have the potential to emerge as major centres of tourism.

They include wetlands such as those in Sultanpur in Haryana, places of mythological significance such as Kurukshetra in Haryana, and cultural heritage sites such as Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

On January 9 and 10, a conference in Kurukshetra hosted tour operators, opinion makers and social media influencers across India, along with officials of the Tourism Ministry, the Haryana Tourism Department, and the local administration.

"The endeavour was to create awareness of the tourism potential and religious significance of the area. The stakeholders discussed various aspects, including infrastructure, accommodation, tourist amenities, inflow of tourists to this area, travel and tourism sustainability, responsible tourism, the involvement of the local community, sensitisation, and training of the service providers for promotion and marketing of the region," R.K. Suman, Regional Director-North, Ministry of Tourism, said.

> This conference aimed to explore, promote and highlight Kurukshetra and places of significance related to the Mahabharata
>
> **MANISHA SAXENA**
> Director-General, Tourism Ministry

All visitors to northern India always head to spots such as Jaipur and Agra, Manisha Saxena, Director-General, Tourism Ministry, pointed out.

"This conference aimed to explore, promote and highlight Kurukshetra and places of significance related to the Mahabharata as a preferred tourist destination among domestic tourists and overseas visitors," Ms. Saxena said.

Versatile classical singer Prabha Atre passes away at 92

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre, considered the doyen of the Kirana gharana, passed away on Saturday in Pune, aged 92.

Atre suffered a cardiac arrest in her sleep at her residence.

"She was rushed to Dinanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Mumbai, where she was declared dead at 5.30 a.m.," said a medical source.

She was due to participate in a programme in Mumbai on Saturday.

The much-feted Atre, who played a significant role in popularising classical music across the globe, won the Padma Shri in 1990, the Padma Bhushan in 2002 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2022, during a rich career spanning seven decades.

Born in September 1932 in Pune, Maharashtra, she received her training in classical music from Sureshbabu Mane, a prominent exponent of the Kirana gharana.

Educationist, author

Established as one of the "grand dames" of Indian classical music by the early 1970s, what made her different from peers like the renowned Kishori Amonkar was her sheer versatility and ability in innovating hoary traditions in Indian classical music, making it fresh and supple with her trailblazing renditions.

Prabha Atre died at a Mumbai hospital after suffering a cardiac arrest.

A music educationist and thinker, who wrote prolifically, Atre straddled the worlds of classical music, dance and theatre with consummate ease.

Theatre artist

She had a brief stint as a singing stage-actor early in her career, essaying roles in Marathi theatre classics, while having formal training in Kathak.

She was equally proficient in different classical genres, be it *khyal*, *tarana*, *thumri*, *dadra*, *ghazal* and *bhajan*, citing the influence of Ustad Amir Khan (founder of the Indore gharana) for *khyal* and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan (Kasur gharana) for *thumri*.

In keeping with the *guru-shishya* tradition, Atre ran the Swaramayee Gurukul in Pune to train students, which birthed several notable classical singers.

'Set new standards'

Paying tributes, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced a state funeral for Atre.

"Her contribution to Indian classical music is of the highest order. She set new standards in the field with her extraordinary talent, and heavenly and mesmerising singing... Her demise will be a great void and loss for Indian music," Mr. Shinde said.

'End of era'

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who presented Atre with the Atal Sanskriti Award on December 25, said the singer's death was "very painful".

"Indian music will always be indebted to her, I pay my heartfelt tribute to her, and may God give strength to her family to bear this loss," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said Atre's demise "marked the end of a glorious era of classical music".

Her last rites will be performed in Pune on January 16.

BERLIN

Scholz warns of extremist threats as farmers block roads in Germany

AP

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called for calm and a readiness to accept compromises as the country faces protests by farmers angry about a plan to cut their fuel subsidies. He warned of extremists stoking rage against a backdrop of wider discontent. Farmers have blocked major roads with tractors as part of a week of protests. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine 'will remain France's priority' despite international crisis

REUTERS

France's new Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne renewed his country's support to Ukraine, choosing Kyiv for his first official visit abroad. "Despite the multiplying crisis, Ukraine is and will remain France's priority," Mr. Sejourne said in his visit to Kyiv as Ukraine saw another wave of overnight strikes from Russia. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. FAA extends Boeing MAX-9 grounding for new safety checks

AP

The U.S. aviation regulator extended the grounding of Boeing 737 MAX-9 airplanes indefinitely for new safety checks after a cabin panel broke off a new jet mid-flight. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said 40 of the planes must be reinspected before it will consider putting the jets back in service. REUTERS

ISTANBUL

Turkiye launches airstrikes against Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria

REUTERS

Turkiye carried out airstrikes targeting Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria following an attack on a Turkish military base in Iraq which killed nine soldiers. Turkiye often launches strikes against targets in Syria and Iraq as it believes to be affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party which waged insurgency against Turkiye. AP

Ruling party candidate wins Taiwan polls, vows to fend off 'China threats'

Lai Ching-te secures third consecutive term for the Democratic Progressive Party by winning 40.1% votes, he also promises to pursue exchanges with China; Beijing says the result would not stop 'the inevitable trend of China's reunification'

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan's President-elect Lai Ching-te vowed on Saturday to defend the self-ruled island from "intimidation" from China, after voters defied warnings from Beijing and swept him to election victory.

Mr. Lai – branded by Beijing as a threat to peace in the flashpoint region – secured an unprecedented third consecutive term for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) after a raucous campaign in which he pitched himself as the defender of Taiwan's democratic way of life.

Communist China claims Taiwan, separated from the mainland by a 180-km strait, as its own and refuses to rule out using force to bring about "unification", even if conflict does not appear imminent.

Bright future: Lai Ching-te, left, celebrates his victory with running mate Bi-khim Hsiao in Taipei on Saturday. AP

'Severe danger'

Beijing, which before the poll called Mr. Lai a "severe danger" and urged voters to shun him, said on Saturday the result would not stop "the inevitable trend of China's reunification".

In his victory speech Mr. Lai said he would maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, but pledged to defend the island from Chinese belligerence.

"We are determined to safeguard Taiwan from continuing threats and intimidation from China," he told supporters.

With votes from all polling stations counted, the Central Election Commission said Lai won 40.1% of votes, ahead of Hou Yu-ih of the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) on 33.5%.

Mr. Lai thanked the Taiwanese people for "writing a new chapter in our democracy" by defying one-party China's threats and warnings. "We are telling the international community that between democracy and authoritarianism, we will stand on the side of democracy," he said, adding that he will also try to pursue exchanges with China.

'U.S. does not support Taiwan independence'

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said the U.S. does not support the independence of Taiwan. "We do not support independence..." Mr. Biden said, when asked for reaction to Saturday's elections.

Hours ahead of the polls, the U.S. had warned "it would be unacceptable" for "any" country to interfere in the election. The U.S. is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties with the island.

We may be small, but won't be bullied, says Maldives' Muizzu following China visit

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Maldives may be a small island nation, but that does not allow others to "bully" the country, President Mohamed Muizzu said on Saturday, just as he arrived in Male, after a five-day state visit to China.

He further noted in his media statement that the Indian Ocean "does not belong to one particular country", and that the Maldives "is not in anyone's backyard".

Mr. Muizzu's remarks, apparently alluding to India, come amid a growing strain between Male and New Delhi. Maldives-India bilateral relations have remained tense since Mr. Muizzu's election in September, following his demand that Indian troops be swiftly withdrawn from the Maldives.

Last month, his Cabinet decided against renewing a joint hydrographic survey initiative with India. Delivering the latest jolt to ties, three junior Ministers in the Muizzu administration criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indians on social media, over his recent visit to Lakshadweep. Social media users in India, in turn, mobilised around a "Boycott Maldives" campaign threatening to impact the Indian Ocean archipelago's vital tourism industry.

Mohamed Muizzu

The government in Male distanced itself from the controversial remarks and has since suspended the three deputy Ministers. While Mr. Muizzu has not directly commented on the diplomatic row so far – New Delhi summoned the Maldivian envoy earlier this week – his remarks on Friday are the first indication yet of his position.

Meanwhile during his China visit, Mr. Muizzu urged Chinese tourists to reclaim the top spot in arrivals, held by Indian visitors for two years now; oversaw the signing of 20 MoUs between the two countries, including for greater strategic partnership; and pledged further support for China's Belt and Road initiative. In his comments to local media at the Velana International Airport, Mr. Muizzu also said China has agreed to begin negotiations on possibly deferring or easing repayment terms for its loans to the Maldives.

More than 30 Palestinians killed in Israeli strike on Gaza

Associated Press
RAFAH

More than 30 Palestinians, including young children, were killed in Israeli bombardments overnight into Saturday in the Gaza Strip, officials said.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on Saturday that 135 Palestinians were killed in the last 24 hours, bringing the overall toll of the war to 23,843.

The Ministry has said about two-thirds of the dead are women and children.

The Ministry said the total number of war-wounded surpassed 60,000.

U.S. carries out new strike over Houthi target in Yemen

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

The United States carried out a new strike on Saturday on a Houthi rebel target in Yemen, the U.S. military said, after the Iran-backed militants warned of further attacks on ships in the Red Sea. The strike on a Houthi radar site came a day after U.S. and British forces hit scores of targets across the country.

U.S. Central Command said Saturday's strike was "a follow-on action on a specific military target" related to the previous day's strikes.

Violence involving Iran-aligned groups in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria has surged since the war in Gaza began in October.

'Solidarity with Gaza'

The Houthis, who say they are acting in solidarity with Gaza, have carried out a growing number of missile and drone attacks in the key Red Sea international trade route. They say they are targeting Israeli-linked shipping

But since mid-November the rebel attacks have affected trade flows when supply strains are already putting upward pressure on inflation globally.

Pakistan 'shuts' key crossing at Afghan border to truck drivers

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan effectively closed a key northwestern border crossing with Afghanistan to truck drivers on Saturday, Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said.

Afghanistan said officials at the Torkham border crossing began asking for passports and visas from Afghan drivers. In response, Kabul has started asking Pakistani drivers for passports and visas. Truckers have been able to pass the border without documents so they generally do not have them.

The Torkham border crossing has become a flash point between the two countries recently

The Torkham border crossing has been closed a number of times in recent months, including in September when it was shut for nine days due to clashes between border forces.

On Saturday, dozens of trucks carrying perishable items waited on each side of the border for the reopening of the crossing, which is a vital commercial artery and a trade route to Central Asian countries for Pakistan.

Pakistan is concerned about the presence in Afghanistan of the Pakistani Taliban, which is a close ally of the Afghan Taliban. Pakistan has said many Pakistani Taliban leaders and fighters have found sanctuary in Afghanistan.

This comes just days after one of Pakistan's most senior politicians, Fazlur Rehman, whose Jamiat Ulema Islam party is known for backing the Afghan Taliban, visited Kabul to reduce tensions between the two countries.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)
TRIVANDRUM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. V/W/TVC/1/2024 DATED 11/01/2024

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Description	App. Value (₹) In lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)
1	TVC Division - Painting of girder bridges and steel structures due in 2023-24.	76.72	153500
2	ADEN/TCR - Sub-Division:- Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	186.89	243500
3	ADEN/QLN: Opening, examination and standardization of approach road at level Crossings.	229.28	264600
4	NCJ: Urgent Repairs to spalled portions of catwalk between Pit lines No.1 & 2.	49.28	98600
5	DEN South Jurisdiction: TFR on channel sleeper - 464 sleepers.	59.41	118800
6	Ernakulam P.Way section - ERC greacing, boxing of ballast, painting of rails and other maintenance works in P.Way to eliminate deficiencies in track--balance work.	96.74	193500
7	SSE/W/KTYM Jurisdiction: Renovation of SSE/ Pway office at - KTYM, PVRD & TRVL and SSE/W office KTYM.	40.62	81200
8	Collection and training out of track ballast at Vallathol Nagar depot.	182.33	241200
9	Provision of 20 person capacity lift at Railway Hospital/TVP.	21.38	42800
10	Ernakulam - Alleppey - Kayankulam - Trivandrum - TTR(FS+TWS+CMSC) - 168 sets (1:12 - 87 sets work with T28 machine only).	671.79	485900
11	ADEN Kollam Subdivision - Kollam P.way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	77.02	154100
12	TVC Division - Provision of office accommodation for SSE/JE/Signal & Tele in S&T branch at NNN, KCVL, KPY & SRTL.	54.07	108200
13	Repairs & Painting of FOBS in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Quilon Jurisdiction.	57.20	114400
14	DEN/S/TVC Jurisdiction - Retaining wall near Gate lodges and level crossing locations.	52.55	105100
15	1) ERS-Essential repairs to platforma surface including replacement of damaged slabs, repairs to trolley path etc. 2) Brightening up of platform shelters ERS, ERN, KUMM.	73.68	147400
16	Manufacture and supply of warning boards and track side indicators in ADEN/TVC and ADEN/ NCJ Sub divisions.	51.74	103500
17	ADEN/TVC Sub-Division:-Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	136.80	218400
18	Thiruvananthapuram Division: Proposed renewal of Existing Culverts with Rail/joist & slab, Stone slabs with RCC Box 12 bridges.	376.98	338500
19	TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab for Br. No. 128 UP (1x12.20m) and Br.No.136 UP (1x12.20m) in ERS-KTYM-KY] section.	136.53	218300
20	ADEN Nagercoil Subdivision - Trivandrum P.Way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	149.80	224900

Period of completion in months: Sl. No. 1, 5, 11, 13 to 16, 19: SIX. **Sl. No. 2, 6, 8, 10, 12 :** TWELVE. **Sl. No. 3:** TEN. **Sl. No. 4, 7, 17, 18, 20:** EIGHT. **Sl. No. 9:** FOUR.

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No: 1 to 20: 08-02-2024 at 11.00 hrs.
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Trivandrum-14

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

ECO-TOURISM SOCIETY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH UNDER THE AEGIS OF H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT (GOVT. OF HIMACHAL PRADESH)

***Invites* REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
for
SELECTION OF OPERATORS FOR DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT/ PROVIDING SERVICES TO RUN ECO-TOURISM ACTIVITIES AT ECO- TOURISM POTENTIAL SITES IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

" We are not above nature, we are a part of nature"

The Eco-Tourism Society of Himachal Pradesh ("**HPECOSOC**") under the aegis of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department ("**HPFD**") is desirous of developing 13 eco-tourism sites in the State of Himachal Pradesh which have a huge potential for eco-tourism activities.

As such, HPECOSOC under HPFD invites bids from interested and eligible bidders for designing/ developing, operating, managing, providing services and maintaining ecotourism facilities & activities at the following eco-tourism sites, for a period of 10 (ten) years, extendable by 5 (five) years subject to certain conditions:

- Eco-tourism sites at (1) **Swar**; (2) **Sourav Van Vihar**; (3) **Neugal Park**; (4) **Bir-Billing**, under Palampur Forest Division of Dharamshala Forest Circle;
- Eco-tourism sites at (5) **Near FRH Kaisdhar** under Kullu Forest Division; (6) **Kasol** under Parvati Forest Division; (7) **Khirganga** under Parvati Forest Division; (8) **Sumaropa** under Parvati Forest Division; (9) **Shoja** under Banjar Forest Division of Kullu Forest Circle;
- Eco-tourism site at (10) **Narkanda** under Kotgarh Forest Division of Rampur Forest Circle;
- Eco-tourism sites at (11) **Shoghi, Camping Site**; (12) **Potter Hill**, under Shimla Forest Division of Shimla Forest Circle and
- Eco-tourism site at (13) **Ganga Nal, Prashar Mandi** falling under Mandi Forest Division of Mandi Forest Circle.

For further details regarding the detailed scope of work, minimum eligibility criteria, bidding procedure etc. for each eco-tourism site***, the interested bidders are required to refer to the RFPs/ Bidding Documents for each*** eco-tourism site ***which will be hosted on the e-procurement portal*** http://hptenders.gov.in/ **on 15.01.2024 and the interested bidders can download the RFP document 12:00 noon onwards from 15.01.2024 to 12.02.2024 12:00 midnight.** ***For further updates, please visit the portal*** http://hptenders.gov.in/ ***and the website*** https://himachalecotourism.hp.gov.in ***periodically as all updates shall be posted there only.***

For queries (if any), please contact

O/o CEO cum APCCF (Eco-Tourism)
Ecotourism Society of Himachal Pradesh
Mist Chamber, Khalini, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

HP / 1105/2023-2024

Changing environment caused the demise of largest primate

The Hindu Bureau

The extinction of the largest known primate, a giant ape from China, resulted from its struggle to adapt to environmental changes, as per a paper published in *Nature*. These findings fill a key gap in our understanding of why this species failed to survive where other, similar primates persisted.

Gigantopithecus blacki was a species of great ape found in China between 2 million and 330 thousand years ago, after which the species became extinct. With an estimated height of 3 m and weight of 200-300 kg, it is thought to be the largest primate to ever exist on Earth. The distribution of the most recent fossils suggests that the geographical range of *G. blacki* markedly reduced before their extinction. An exact timeline and reason for this decline has yet to be established.

Determining changes

The researchers collected and dated fossil samples from 22 caves in southern China. Analyses of the teeth of *G. blacki* and *Pongo weidenreichi* (their closest primate relative) were used to determine changes in diet or behaviour of the species within the extinction window, in conjunction with pollen and stable isotope analysis to reconstruct the environment.

Pollen analysis indicates that 2.3 million years ago, the environment was composed of dense forests with heavy cover – conditions to which *G. blacki* was well-suited.

Before and during the extinction window (295-215,000 years ago), changes in forest plant communities led to a transition in the environment with open forests dominating the landscape.

The transition to open forest is reflected in the dental analyses, which suggest that the diet of *G. blacki* became less diverse and with less regular water consumption; accompanied by indications of increased chronic stress among *G. blacki* over this period. This is in contrast to *P. weidenreichi*, which shows much less stress and better adaption of its dietary preferences to changing conditions over this same period.

The fossil numbers support these hypotheses, showing a decline in the number and geographical spread of *G. blacki* fossils in the record relative to *P. weidenreichi* by 300 thousand years ago.

The authors present a precise timeline for the demise of *G. blacki* that suggests it struggled to adapt to a changing environment compared to its primate peers.

Muscle energy depletion linked to Long COVID: study

The study found structural and functional damage to muscles in people with Long COVID, likely from a deranged immune response; the cause of tiredness was identified as muscle cells not receiving sufficient energy from mitochondria

Rajeev Jayadevan

Researchers from the Amsterdam University Medical Center have discovered an important mechanism responsible for fatigue in people with Long COVID. They show that essentially it is an energy availability problem within the muscles, rather than hypoxia due to clots blocking tiny blood vessels as previously thought. The results were published in *Nature Communications* on January 4, 2024.

New symptoms

Studies conducted in India have revealed that 5.3% to 37.3% of individuals with COVID-19 either experience persistent health issues or develop new symptoms that last for well over three months. Fatigue, shortness of breath and brain fog are prominent among the new symptoms occurring in previously healthy people. This constellation of lingering symptoms has collectively been called Long COVID. Various hypotheses have been proposed to explain these.

The commonest symptom is extreme tiredness or fatigue that is worse after even mild exertion. For instance, walking a few steps might result in the same level of fatigue as climbing six flights of stairs, necessitating an immediate rest afterward.

The Amsterdam study primarily addressed this symptom. The researchers studied a group of 25 previously healthy, socially active people who developed Long COVID following a bout of mild disease. They were compared to a group of similar individuals who recovered completely from mild COVID-19. Being able to compare like versus like adds credibility to their findings.

The researchers performed blood tests and muscle biopsies in both groups before and after subjecting them to stationary cycling exercises.

They discovered both structural and functional damage to muscles in people with Long COVID, likely from a deranged immune response.

The cause of tiredness was identified as muscle cells not receiving sufficient energy from mitochondria. This is somewhat like using an old mobile phone with a weak battery and low charge, where even a brief conversation triggers a complete shutdown.

Similarly, even a slight exertion led to excessive fatigue in the muscle cells.

Not 'all in the mind'

When Long COVID was initially reported in 2020, many of these patients were subjected to extreme scepticism to the extent of dismissal, with accusations of their symptoms being "all in the mind", and "not different from any other viral infection".

However, while typical viral infections might leave a person feeling tired for a few days to a couple of weeks at most, Long COVID stands out as the symptoms persist for more than three to six months, often varying in severity without any apparent cause. Moreover, new symptoms appear in previously healthy people.

Over a dozen studies have reported the risk of developing this condition among the Indian population. A study on non-hospitalised COVID-19 patients conducted by AIIMS Delhi revealed a 28% incidence at 28 days, while AIIMS Bhubaneswar reported a 9.2% incidence at six months.

In a study of predominantly non-hospitalised individuals who got COVID-19 despite vaccination, Dr. Dipu T.S. and others from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kerala, reported a 10.1% incidence of Long COVID at three months. This indicates that Long COVID may occur even after mild initial disease and despite being vaccinated. Since the arrival of Omicron and its sublineages, the incidence of Long COVID has decreased, possibly due to reduced severity of initial illness.

Recent papers have looked at the post Delta era. A large study from Malaysia shows that 11.2% of people with symptomatic Omicron infection went on to develop Long COVID, defined as persistent symptoms beyond three months. A study from BJ Medical College Pune led by Dr. Rajesh Karyakarte shows that 5.3% of those with Omicron infection got Long COVID, compared to 12.4% during the Delta period. This study found that none of the individuals who had asymptomatic infection developed Long COVID.

Unlike deaths, Long COVID has received less attention, probably due to gradual, insidious changes that individuals suffer from. Long COVID is also perceived to be rare as routine investigations at times do not reveal anything abnormal and sometimes the symptoms get wrongly attributed to other common conditions. As a result, the actual burden of Long COVID is not known.

The Amsterdam study which uncovers the actual reason for Long COVID will hopefully pave the way for scientific remedies. Supportive care and selected medications for subsets of patients remain the mainstay of treatment.

(*Rajeev Jayadevan is co-chairman of the National IMA COVID Task Force*)

Cause of Long COVID unravelled

Fatigue, shortness of breath and brain fog are prominent symptoms in people with Long COVID

Hypotheses: Various hypotheses have been proposed to explain Long COVID. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Hypoxia due to clots blocking tiny blood vessels was previously thought as causing Long COVID
- The Amsterdam University Medical Center study revealed that Long COVID was essentially an energy availability problem within the muscles
- The cause of tiredness was identified as muscle cells not receiving sufficient energy from mitochondria
- The Amsterdam study undertook blood tests and muscle biopsies in healthy people and those with Long COVID before and after subjecting them to stationary cycling exercise
- Since the arrival of Omicron and its sublineages, the incidence of Long COVID has decreased
- A Malaysian study showed that 11.2% of people with symptomatic Omicron infection developed Long COVID
- A study by researchers in Kerala showed that Long COVID may occur even after mild initial disease and despite being vaccinated

With pooled procurement, drugs cost 82% less

R. Prasad

In 1995, Tamil Nadu pioneered the centralised procurement and distribution of drugs and medicines to government hospitals across the State. This helped in buying drugs at a far cheaper rate due to the sheer volume of drugs procured. Other States have replicated the model with varying levels of success. Like all vaccines supplied to the national immunisation programme at a very low cost, during the pandemic, the Central government was able to procure COVID-19 vaccines at about ₹150 per dose from Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute due to centralised procurement. The COVID-19 vaccines were priced many times more when State governments and private hospitals were asked to procure them directly from the companies.

For the first time, a private entity – the National Cancer Grid – has been able to replicate the model and hammer down the cost of high-value, high-volume cancer and supportive care medicines through a pilot pooled procurement programme. The pooled procurement of 40 drugs by 23 cancer centres resulted in savings of ₹13.2 billion (₹1,320 crores), according to a paper published in 2023 in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. Savings on individual drugs ranged from 23% to 99% (median savings of 82%) from the maximum retail price. Besides anticancer drugs, the list of medicines included antibiotics, antifungals, antiemetics and growth factors.

The drugs included both generic and patented medicines, and the participating cancer centres – small, mid-size and large-volume – included both private and public cancer hospitals from across the country. Cost savings were most for generic drugs and less for patented drugs.

Huge savings: Pooled procurement of 40 drugs by 23 cancer centres resulted in savings of ₹1,320 crores. GETTY IMAGES

"The concentration of demand significantly strengthened our negotiating power, while the centralised negotiation approach, combined with larger purchase quantities, allowed us to secure substantial price discounts," the authors write.

Once the list of drugs to be purchased through pooled procurement was drawn up, the demand for each drug was determined from the participating centres. Prior to tendering, the reserve price of each drug was determined by requesting the participating centres to share the cost of procurement of each drug for the previous year.

The lowest price for every listed drug was used as the reserve price for each drug.

The reserve price list was shared with all participating centres and it served as the maximum price at or below which the centres agreed to buy the drugs. All participating centres also agreed to a minimum purchase commitment based on the reserve price. The minimum purchase commitment helped in communicating to the drug companies the likely annual volumes required for each drug. This was followed by online tendering. The technical evaluation of the drug companies before financial evaluation ensures that only quality drugs will be supplied.

Once the drug companies were selected, an agreement was signed between the companies and each cancer centre.

The agreement ensured that "vendors did not breach the terms and conditions established with the network". For instance, the companies were required to supply drugs to all cancer centres immaterial of their location. The negotiated price was valid for two years. With the success of the pilot programme, more centres have now evinced interest in participating in the pooled drug procurement.

The drastic reduction in drug cost can in turn greatly decrease the out-of-pocket adherence to treatment even in private hospitals, and increase access and affordability by patients at small cancer centres in smaller cities.

"[This is] a model that can (and should) be replicated in other disease areas and geographies," Dr. C.S. Pramesh, Director of the Tata Memorial Hospital who had driven this programme and the corresponding author of the paper tweeted. "This must rank as one of our most satisfying and fulfilling efforts at democratising access to cancer medicines."

SNAPSHOTS

Cells from foetus and mother communicate during labour

Applying single-cell technologies to data from pregnant women, researchers have constructed an atlas that precisely maps out how cells from the foetus and the mother communicate with each other during labour. With this map, the scientists discovered several blood signatures that could be monitored during pregnancy. Women who went on to experience preterm birth displayed some of these signals early during pregnancy. These signals that might be applied to help predict cases of preterm birth in women.

Shark fishing mortality on the rise despite regulatory change

Despite widespread legislation and fishing regulations aimed at reducing wasteful shark finning practices, global shark fishing mortality is still on the rise, a study found. Improved regulations are needed to reverse the continued overexploitation of these species. Researchers found that shark fishing mortality has continued to increase over the last 17 years - increasing from at least 76 to 80 million killed sharks per year - despite regulatory change. Of these, roughly 25 million were threatened species.

Extinction risks for thousands of Atlantic forest trees

A comprehensive analysis of tree species' conservation statuses across Atlantic Forest trees reveals high extinction risks. According to the study, roughly two-thirds of the 4,950 tree species living in this biodiversity hotspot are threatened with extinction. This includes 82% of endemic species, which have quite limited geographic ranges. The researchers suggest that the conservation status of tropical forests may be worse than previously believed.

Question Corner

Sealing the warmth

How do seals stay warm and hydrated in the Arctic?

Arctic seals have evolved many adaptations to cope with their frosty environment. Researchers report that these structures help the seals retain heat and moisture as they breathe in and out. The researchers used computer tomography to make 3D models of the nasal cavities/maxilloturbinates of an Arctic species of seal, the bearded seal, and a subtropical species, the Mediterranean monk seal. Then, they used energy dissipation models to compare the seals' ability to warm and moisten air during inhalation and to reduce heat and moisture loss during exhalation. In cold, dry environments, animals lose heat and moisture just by breathing. Most mammals and birds have complex bones called maxilloturbinates inside their nasal cavities that help to minimise this risk. These porous, bony shelves are covered with a vascularised layer of mucosal tissues that humidify inhaled air, which is important for lung function and reduces the amount of heat and moisture lost during exhalation.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What are the complaints about Digi Yatra?

How does the Digi Yatra app function, and what are the privacy loopholes that have raised concerns?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

In December 2023, as air travel peaked in the holiday season, it was found that security personnel and private staff were collecting facial biometrics at airport entry gates without the consent or knowledge of passengers for the Digi Yatra app.

What are the complaints from air travellers?

Last month, there was a surge in complaints from passengers using various airports about the "coercive and deceptive" manner in which both private staff and CISF personnel were enrolling them for Digi Yatra. Travellers said CISF personnel at the entry gate of passenger buildings were asking travellers to scan their boarding pass and capturing their photos, following which they would provide consent on behalf of the passengers for registering for Digi Yatra without seeking permission or even informing them.

The Digi Yatra policy states that airports using the Digi Yatra Biometric Boarding System will adhere to the data protection law, but rules of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 are yet to be framed

The CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation, Suresh Khadakbhavi, told *The Hindu* that enrolment for Digi Yatra was stepped up in December as airports record high footfall. He said this was part of the "day of travel" enrolment drive at airports, which is for those who haven't downloaded the app and registered themselves ahead of travel. "This is to allow passengers to experience the Digi Yatra process and understand and appreciate the benefits of the seamless, hassle-free passenger travel so that they can do permanent enrolment on the Digi Yatra app," said Mr. Khadakbhavi.

What is Digi Yatra? What are its objectives?

The Digi Yatra initiative aims to promote digital processing of passengers for paper-less and seamless movement through various checkpoints at airports such as the entry gate, security check area and boarding gate. The Digi Yatra policy was unveiled by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2018 as an entirely voluntary programme. After some delay, it was rolled out from December 2022 at three airports, including Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. Today, it is present at 13 airports, and will be expanded to 24 more airports in 2024.

The Digi Yatra app is not owned by the government, but by a consortium called the Digi Yatra Foundation whose shareholders comprise the Airports Authority of India and five private airports, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi. The government does not provide any funding for its implementation, and airports are required to spend from their kitty. The implementation involves an app that passengers can download. They need to provide their name, mobile, email address and Aadhaar document to register. They also have to upload a selfie so that their image can be matched with the one on the Aadhaar. These two steps lead to the creation of a digi yatra travel id. When passengers upload their air tickets, the digi yatra id gets updated with their travel details.

At airports, passengers scan their boarding pass at an e-gate and look into a camera that captures their image. Once the face verification is successful, the e-gate opens. This also creates the passenger data-set which is a combination of their facial scan and PNR. This data is then used as a single token at the remaining check points so that a passenger can simply zip through them with a mere facial scan without the need to produce a boarding pass. The aim is to improve operational efficiency and allow faster processing of passengers, allowing airlines to track delayed passengers and enhancing security by ensuring there is no exchange of passes among passengers or wrong boarding.

What are the issues about implementation?

The government maintains that there is no central storage of a passenger's data, which is encrypted and stored in a secure wallet on his or her mobile device. Though the data is shared with the departure airport on the day of travel, it is purged within 24 hours. According to a detailed analysis by the Internet Freedom Foundation, the Digi Yatra policy states that the airports using the Digi Yatra Biometric Boarding System will adhere to the data protection law as mandated by the Government of India. But the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 was passed by Parliament in August 2023 and the rules are yet to be framed. The Bill has also been criticised for giving the government broad powers to exempt any of its agencies from all its provisions. Additionally, these exemptions are also granted in the Digi Yatra policy. According to the policy document, "any security agency, Bureau of Immigration or other government agency may be given access to the passenger data based on the current/existing protocols prevalent at that time." It also provides that the Biometric Boarding System will "have an ability to change the data purge settings based on security requirements on a need basis."

Why is aviation safety under scrutiny?

What does the Japan jet inferno escape convey about safety measures? How have advances in aircraft manufacturing technology helped reduce mishaps? What about the response of the crew? Why is the Boeing 737 MAX 9 under the scanner worldwide?

Murali N. Krishnaswamy

The story so far:

The issue of air safety has played out under intense media scrutiny following two aviation incidents. In the first instance, on January 2, a Japan Airlines (JAL) Airbus A350-900 collided with a Japan Coast Guard De Havilland Canada Dash 8 after its landing, with both aircraft catching fire. While all 367 passengers and 12 crew on the JAL aircraft escaped, there were five fatalities (of a total of six passengers) on the Coast Guard plane. In the second instance, on January 5, an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 9 with 171 passengers and six crew, was departing from Portland, U.S., when a window panel 'door plug' blew out mid-air causing depressurisation. No major passenger injuries were reported.

What happened after the Boeing case?

The incident has renewed attention on the Boeing 737 MAX's troubled flight safety record. On January 12, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the U.S. announced more "oversight on Boeing" which will be in addition to its probe into the incident. In its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), U.S., is also focusing on the cabin pressure control system. Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun had told Boeing employees earlier in a meeting at the company's factory in Renton, Washington, where the 737s are assembled, "We're going to approach this – number one – acknowledging our mistake."

The FAA has added that every Boeing 737 MAX 9 with a plug door would remain grounded till there was a thorough review. In the Alaska incident, parts of the seat next to the 'door plug' were damaged, while some other seat frames were twisted. The 'door plug' was found later in a neighbourhood in Portland. A few mobile phones of passengers were sucked out. Alaska Airlines, and later United Airlines, reported their aircraft technicians finding "loose hardware" on some MAX aircraft. India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation also reported an unidentified Indian operator of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 finding a missing washer during a maintenance inspection. This follows a Boeing directive in December 2023 asking 737 MAX operators to carry out checks after a loose bolt was found in the rudder control system of a 737 MAX (the airline has not been named).

Experts highlight a series of factors in ensuring survival of passengers like crew training in emergencies to the materials in modern aircraft

Narrow escape: The burnt-out JAL plane at Haneda airport, on January 3. AP

What does the Airbus incident show?

The JAL Airbus was flying from Sapporo New Chitose to Tokyo Haneda, which is the world's third busiest domestic airline route (according to aviation data). This is also the first complete hull loss of an A350. However, it was the survival of all the passengers on a new technology aircraft that drew attention, highlighting the importance of crew training, the critical response time of fire and rescue teams and the advances in aircraft manufacturing technology. In the JAL incident, as the aircraft's public announcement system malfunctioned, the cabin crew had to conduct the evacuation using megaphones and voice commands. All passengers were evacuated through three emergency exits.

An official spokesperson for Japan Airlines told *The Hindu* that its crew emergency training (as in any airline) is stringent with written tests and regular exercises. There is also emergency evacuation training for flight deck crew (pilots).

What about newer aircraft technology?

There is increasing use of composite materials in Airbus (A350) and Boeing aircraft (787 and 777), which ensure a combination of durability, strength and low weight. In the A350, more than half of the plane's structure was composite, with the use of advanced materials such as carbon-fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP). The JAL fire was a real world test for such an aircraft, and the forensic analysis will offer valuable technical insights to investigators and manufacturers.

In the Boeing 787 programme, for instance, there have been computer simulation models of the behaviour of composite materials in extreme situations, but these have left structural and material experts divided. But in fire tests by the FAA in November 2007, plastic composites were shown to withstand fire much better than metal. Boeing also issued official guidelines to airport firefighting departments on the use of standard techniques to put out a 787 fire, which included aspects such as a "toxicity perspective".

Professor Graham Braithwaite, Director of Transport Systems, Cranfield University, U.K. told *The Hindu* that there are many things that have changed to try and ensure that aircraft can be successfully evacuated. In the U.K., the most significant accident involved a British Airtours Boeing 737 at Manchester Airport in August 1985. The investigation resulted in many recommendations on changes to an aircraft cabin. It also led to, he says, a series of research studies by Professor Helen Muir into the behaviour of air passengers, which major aircraft manufacturers used to help them understand the best configurations to ensure a rapid evacuation. In today's world, says Prof. Braithwaite, aviation safety regulators require new aircraft types to meet a standard whereby all passengers can be successfully evacuated in 90 seconds or less, and with only half of the exits in use. There is also the role of the cabin crew and the airport rescue and firefighting teams. The JAL fire and evacuation benefited from all of these lessons, he says. In the JAL aircraft, says Prof. Braithwaite, the composite body eventually burned quite fiercely, but this was only after it had successfully done its job in protecting those on board. The composite structure seems to withstand 'burn through' and the interior did not generate poisonous fumes compared with the Manchester fire.

What are the key safety improvements?

Dr. Hassan Shahidi, President and CEO of the Flight Safety Foundation, Washington DC-Baltimore Area, U.S., told *The Hindu* that the FAA-governed improvements have also led to improved standards being put in place. These include: improved flammability of seat cushions adopted by the international aviation community; floor proximity emergency escape path marking; lavatory smoke detectors; lavatory fire extinguishers; halon fire extinguishers; cargo compartment liners; improved interior materials especially for large surface area panels to ensure reduced heat release, and smoke emissions test standards; the use of 16G seats; improved access to Type 3 exits; cargo compartment fire detection or suppression as well as new thermal/acoustic insulation. According to a senior Airbus official, aircraft certification requirements and processes are among the toughest in any industry, and it is up to the aircraft manufacturer to demonstrate that all safety requirements are met. He added that the 90-second (evacuation) rule applies to all aircraft no matter what material the fuselage is made from. The evacuation test was indeed part of the A350's certification, he told *The Hindu*. A senior airline commander says that the 18 minute event – it took the JAL crew 18 minutes to get every passenger off – points to the design aspect linked to delaying the effects of a fire. His final word is that while no aircraft can be made 100% fire proof, it is a series of factors that could aid better passenger survival.

Why has South Africa dragged Israel to the ICJ?

Has Israel violated the provisions of the Genocide Convention in its ongoing military campaign in Gaza? What are the allegations? What are the powers of the International Court of Justice? How long will it take for a ruling and is it binding?

K. Venkataramanan

The story so far:

The two-day proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague between South Africa and Israel attracted global attention. South Africa had in late December moved the ICJ, invoking the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948, against Israel, accusing it of committing genocide during its ongoing military campaign in Gaza. South Africa has sought the indication of provisional measures to stop the genocide while Israel has rebutted the allegation that it had any genocidal intent in its response to the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas.

What gives ICJ jurisdiction?

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The statute that created it makes it clear that only states may be parties in cases before the Court. Both South Africa and Israel are signatories to the Genocide Convention of 1948, which has now been invoked by South Africa. Provisional measures are interim rulings of the ICJ aimed at preventing either party from doing irreparable harm to the main case. Proceedings instituted before the ICJ usually take years for disposal. In this instance, in its 84-page filing, South Africa has sought a series of measures including the immediate suspension of Israel's military operations in Gaza and to desist from the commission of any act within the scope of the Convention against the Palestinian people. A request for provisional measures in this case will not involve a determination on whether a genocide has taken place, but it is enough for South Africa to demonstrate an intent to commit genocide.

A ruling on whether to issue provisional measures is expected within weeks. But the ICJ has no means to enforce its orders

Never again: Protesters gather near the ICJ on January 12. REUTERS

What is the Genocide Convention?

The Genocide Convention, 1948, was the first human rights treaty to be adopted by the UN General Assembly. It primarily arose form a commitment to 'never again' allow mass killing of people such as the Holocaust. South Africa's case is based upon Article II which says genocide means acts such as killing members of a national, racial, ethnic or religious group; causing serious bodily and mental harm to the members of the group; and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. It has also accused Israel of causing hunger, dehydration, and starvation in Gaza by impeding sufficient humanitarian assistance, cutting off water, food, fuel, and electricity, and failing to provide shelter or sanitation to Palestinians in Gaza, including its 1.9 million internally displaced people. South Africa put the death toll at 23,000, 70% of them being women and children.

How did South Africa make its argument?

Lawyers appearing for South Africa drew heavily upon statements and remarks attributed to Israeli officials and military leaders, to contend that one could infer genocidal intent from their words and deeds. They also quoted extensively from remarks made by officials of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, among others, to the effect that civilians throughout Gaza faced grave danger and the health care system had collapsed after hospitals were turned into battlegrounds. They emphasised that "nowhere is safe in Gaza" amid constant bombardment by Israel Defence Forces. They argued that the current operations should be seen in the context of the 'Nakba' of 1948, 75 years of 'apartheid', 56 years of occupation and 16 years of siege. Nakba, which means 'catastrophe' in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement of Palestinians during the Arab-Israeli war. A remark by Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu referring to the Biblical character Amalek found particular mention in South Africa's presentation to indicate "genocidal intent" as "it is being used by Israel soldiers to justify the killing of civilians in Gaza." Amalek, according to the Hebrew Bible, was a persecutor of the Israelites and it is the duty of Israelites to eliminate Amalekites.

How did Israel counter the arguments?

Israel in its presentation on January 12 rejected any genocidal intent behind its ongoing campaign and argued that its response was legitimate and based on the norms of international law. It anchored its presentation on its right to self-defence. It claimed that its operations in Gaza were not aimed at destroying its people, but to protect them and that it was directed solely against Hamas and its allied groups and were aimed at removing Hamas' capacity to threaten Israel. Its representative questioned the invocation of the term genocide in the context of Israel's conduct in a war it did not start. They rejected the charge that any remarks attributed to its Prime Minister or Defence Minister indicated any genocidal intent. Rather, routine rhetoric has been twisted out of context in South Africa's presentation. It also accused South Africa of relying on statistics provided by Hamas about casualties. Israel also put the blame on casualties on Hamas, claiming that its use of civilians as human shields was aimed at maximising harm to civilians. Unintended civilian casualties occurring during the pursuit of lawful military objectives do not indicate genocidal intent, it argued.

When is a provisional ruling expected?

A ruling on whether to issue provisional measures and, if so, what these measures will be, is expected within weeks. However, the ICJ has no means to enforce its own orders. It is possible for the UN Security Council to take measures, but it is subject to the veto power of permanent members. In the event of an adverse ruling, Israel may be banking on the U.S. to veto any attempt to enforce any such order.

Justice without power

ICJ

Though the decisions of the UN's top court, which is currently hearing a case instituted by South Africa accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, are legally binding and cannot be appealed against, they are often defied in the absence of an enforcement mechanism

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN's highest judicial body, is once again in news after it held hearings over the last two days in a case instituted by South Africa, accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Over 23,000 Palestinians have been killed and 90% of Gaza's population displaced in Israel's offensive that started after the October 7 attack by Hamas in which at least 1,200 Israelis were killed. Israel has rejected the genocide allegations as proceedings at the World Court is set to continue in the coming months.

Seated at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the ICJ was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the UN, following decades of international conflicts in the form of two World Wars.

The multilateral forum has dual jurisdictional powers – advisory jurisdiction and jurisdiction in contentious cases. While the former relates to the jurisdiction of the court in providing legal opinions on matters referred to it by the organs and specialised agencies of the UN, the latter involves settling disputes between countries and determining "state responsibility" for crimes committed in violation of international law. The ICJ was established after its predecessor – the Permanent Court of International Justice – fell into desuetude following its inability to enforce its mandate during the intervening years between the two World Wars.

The court has a total strength of 15 judges who are appointed for nine-year terms through separate, simultaneous elections at the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council. However, 'ad-hoc judges' are sometimes appointed in cases that require specialised knowledge about the concerned dispute.

ICJ judges ought to be impartial and cannot act as extensions of their countries. However, in the past, judges have often voted in line with the politics of their respective nations. For instance, in 2022, when the court ordered Russia to immediately halt its military operations in Ukraine, judges from Russia and China were the only ones who voted against the decision. In fact, India's appointee to the ICJ, Justice Dalveer Bhandari's vote in favour of provisional measures against Russia had been misconceived to be in conflict with India's official stance at the UN since India had abstained from voting on all key resolutions pertaining to the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

PHOTO CREDIT: AP

No enforcement powers

Although the court's decisions are legally binding and cannot be appealed against, they are often defied in the absence of an enforcement mechanism of its own. The UN Charter authorises the UNSC to enforce the court's decisions – however, its compliance is often at the mercy of the power politics of the permanent members of the Security Council. The enforcement of any adverse ruling against Israel is likely to be vetoed by its strongest ally, the U.S.

Another challenge to the court's efficacy is the non-participation of powerful member states in its proceedings. In the proceedings instituted by Ukraine against Russia in 2022, the latter refused to advance submissions "in light of the apparent absurdity of the lawsuit". Similarly, in the famous Nicaragua vs the U.S. case (over the latter's support for Contras), the U.S. refused to submit to the court's jurisdiction and enforce its subsequent ruling.

The ICJ's slow and bureaucratic procedure resulting in rulings taking years to be pronounced has also been a subject of criticism. A final ruling from the court determining whether Israel has committed genocide in Gaza will likely take years to emerge.

A 2019 case instituted by Gambia against Myanmar for its military crackdown on Rohingya refugees is still in trial. The court took nearly two and a half years to deliver its judgment on preliminary objections since Gambia's initial plea, requesting provisional measures.

Two prior cases involving the Genocide Convention that have proceeded to a final adjudication on the merits also took over a decade to resolve – Croatia v. Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro. This prompts the question of whether any possible redressal of injustice by the court eventually becomes infructuous.

Relevance of the court

Over the last few decades, states have approached the court to rule on areas of international law that were not previously common in its docket such as human rights and environmental violations. The ICJ has also been successful in furthering the participation of states that have not accepted its compulsory jurisdiction by invoking its authority through dispute settlement clauses or special agreements. Romania recently advanced a declaration in support of the court's jurisdiction in which over 30 states have joined so far.

Major rulings on reparations have also been adhered to by the concerned parties. In its 2022 judgment in the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) v. Uganda, the court ordered Uganda to pay a total of $325 million to the DRC in five annual instalments for damages to persons and natural resources. Subsequently, Uganda complied with the ruling and made the first payment to the DRC on time.

The court's advisory role has also played an enormous role in advancing peaceful solutions to conflicts and supporting diplomatic efforts. In the past, it has rendered opinions such as the 'Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons' in 1996, and 'Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory' in 2004, among others.

In relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict, the UN General Assembly in 2022 passed a resolution calling on the ICJ to give its advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. The ongoing proceedings instituted by South Africa will play a vital role in documenting evidence for the opinion.

Niche position

The ICJ has been able to carve out a niche position in international judicial adjudication despite the emergence of new courts and tribunals. Today, the court exists alongside the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and panels established under the World Trade Organisation. However, this has also raised concerns about the potential fragmentation of international law where various judicial bodies impart contradictory rulings.

Despite several historic strides in the development of international law, the ICJ's impact is adversely affected due to political biases. Putting one body at the helm of the world order risks subjecting the entire judicial framework to its political and institutional limitations. On the other hand, a decentralised judiciary could foster more judicial independence. Time and again when diplomacy has failed, international law has been the last resort – the heart of which lies in safeguarding the interests of the World Court.

THE GIST

- Seated at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the ICJ was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the UN, following decades of international conflicts
- The court has a total strength of 15 judges who are appointed for nine-year terms through separate, simultaneous elections at the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council
- The UN Charter authorises the UNSC to enforce the court's decisions — however, its compliance is often at the mercy of the power politics of the permanent members of the Security Council

Second coming

Tshering Tobgay

The 58-year old politician, whose party won 30 out of 47 seats in Bhutan's parliamentary elections, says his Himalayan country is open for business

Suhasini Haidar

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

For the newly elected 58-year old Prime Minister of Bhutan, understatement and modesty are often devices to overpower his audience. Stepping up to the podium at the 'Vibrant Gujarat' conclave in India in 2015 during his previous tenure (2013-18), Tshering Tobgay faced a daunting task: to make an impression with others at the event, including host Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

"Our economy is small, with a GDP of barely $1.7 billion, I am acutely aware that many of the delegates here are worth more individually," he began, saying in fluent Hindi that he was on an "economic pilgrimage" to India.

Once the laughter died down, however, he came in for the punch. "Our economy may be small, but we have used our resources wisely. Healthcare, for example, is completely free, so is education. Our economy may be small, but it is green and sustainable," he added.

"Bhutan is open for business," he said, but that only "sustainable" investment would be welcomed, one that folded in with Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) philosophy, that he said was more important than the GDP of a country.

His speech came in for thunderous applause, with many of the leaders no doubt wondering if they had been unexpectedly upstaged. Few knew that the seemingly modest bespectacled young man wearing a traditional Bhutanese 'Goh', had once studied at school in India, Dr. Graham's Home in Kalimpong.

He then graduated from Bhutan's eastern Sherubtse College, took an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania while on a UN scholarship, and a Master's degree in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School. After a few years in civil service, he resigned to help found Bhutan's first registered political party – the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

After being elected again this month, five years after he was ousted by voters in the first round of previous elections in 2018, Mr. Tobgay repeated the same words from nearly a decade ago. "Bhutan is open for business," he posted online this week. This time, the words have an urgency to them, as he takes over the economy at a time of considerable cross-winds in the country, with the post-pandemic impact on tourism and growth, high inflation and high unemployment, as well as low currency reserves (about $464 million).

'Egg between rocks'

The announcement last month by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar of plans for the world's first carbon-negative Smart City called the 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' in the south of the country bordering Assam is a gambit to reverse those trends, one that will need both heavy initial infrastructural investment, and intense efforts by the government to shore up international ties. Maintaining ties with Bhutan's two big neighbours, in a small country that often likens itself to the "egg between two rocks", remains the most sensitive task. Mr. Tobgay will be watched most closely for his efforts to resolve boundary issues with China, while keeping ties with India steady. Mr. Tobgay's constituency, Haa, lies close Bhutan's borders with China and India at the tri-junction near the Doklam Plateau, the point of the 2017 military stand-off.

Amid the uncertainty, it is perhaps some comfort with Mr. Tobgay's experience at the helm, and his push for the economy that won his party a massive 30 of 47 seats in the election. "We are a small population and if we take our foot off the pedal on the economy, our youth are going to migrate in larger numbers, that would be difficult to reverse," he told *The Hindu* in an interview in December.

Keeping his foot on the pedal comes naturally in one sense to Mr. Tobgay, who took part in Bhutan's annual intense "Tour of the Dragon" 268-km biking challenge that crosses mountain passes at 3,500 metres in elevation, a passion he pursues along with his interest in Bhutan's national sport of archery. The avid athlete will need both a keen eye on the target as well a knack for tricky balancing as he essays his next turn in the Prime Minister's chair.

Heir of Macronism

Gabriel Attal

France's youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister is assuming the leadership of a troubled government besieged by political and economic challenges

Saumya Kalia

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

What is the most striking thing about Gabriel Attal? His age, perhaps: the 34-year-old is the youngest head of government in French history. Mr. Attal is also the first openly gay official to hold the position. His rise is oft compared to meteors and ascendant stars: all in 13 years' time, Mr. Attal went from being an obscure intern to holding the second-highest office in France. He is now seen as a successor to President Emmanuel Macron.

It is "audacious", Mr. Attal said of Mr. Macron in a speech this week, for the youngest President to appoint the youngest Prime Minister in the Republic's history.

Mr. Attal was born to Yves Attal, a Tunisian of Jewish descent, and Marie de Couriss, with French and Greek-Russian roots. Both worked in the film industry. He was raised in his mother's religion of Orthodox Christianity, but his father warned him he will "feel Jewish" all his life and "suffer anti-Semitism" because of the name. He goes by the name Gabriel Attal de Couriss.

Mr. Attal attended the elite private school École alsacienne in Paris, succeeded by a master's degree in public affairs from the Sciences Po University.

In an interview, Mr. Attal mentioned he does not intend to hide his sexuality but has refrained from publicly discussing it. (He was in a civil partnership with the 38-year-old Stéphane Séjourné, a political adviser to Mr. Macron until 2021).

Once upon a time, Mr. Attal wanted to be an actor, NPR reported (he played an extra in a 2008 film). At 17, he joined the central wing of the Socialist Party. In 2012, he secured an internship with the then Health Minister Marisol Touraine, the mother of a classmate. The role culminated in a full-time job in the Ministry. Mr. Attal pivoted to join Mr. Macron's presidential campaign in 2017, who was seen as a dynamic centrist leader with Eurocentric ideas.

He has held versatile portfolios: first a government spokesperson and then the Budget Minister and the Minister of Education and Youth. As the Education Minister, he implemented the Muslim *abaya* dress ban in schools. In 2018, when France's national railway company workers went on a strike, he said the country "had to get out of the strike culture". Similar to Mr. Macron, political commentators note Mr. Attal's centre-liberal positioning has shifted to centre-right as the far-right gains ground, with the National Rally's Marine Le Pen leading the charge.

A mini-Macron

Mr. Attal is young, ambitious and popular – words once associated with Mr. Macron himself. Both campaigned on a centrist message locating themselves outside of the "left-right" binary; both rose rapidly through the political ranks. "Emmanuel Macron created Gabriel Attal," said journalist Pascal Praud on CNews.

If Mr. Attal resembled the Macron of 2017, in 2024 he appears to play the foil to the 'highbrow' President of 2024. On the first day of office, he visited flood survivors in northern France, promised "no one will forget" them, and vowed to return to have coffee with a cafe owner.

If Mr. Macron is "aloof", his protege is seen as accessible. The *Associated Press* noted Mr. Attal "started using social media widely in a way no government official had done before". When France in 2021 allowed single women and lesbians to access medically assisted reproduction, Mr. Attal, on Instagram, revealed he was born via the practice too.

The young PM from his early days was dubbed to be a true advocate of "Macronism", one who adapts only to defend "his god", noted an article in *Le Monde*.

Both Mr. Attal and Mr. Macron are seen as privileged politicians, with little understanding or experience to lead France through crises. Hard-left politician Jean-Luc Mélenchon argued the young Mr. Attal would remain a "spokesperson", under a President infamous for centralising power and micromanaging.

Mr. Attal assumes the leadership of a troubled government. Mr. Macron's approval rating dived for the third time in December, the lowest in 2023. Mr. Attal, who as of last month was France's most popular leader, is expected to be a "palate cleanser", as consultant Julien Hoez put it.

INBRIEF

TAFE to invest ₹500 cr. in TN on advanced farm equipment

Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE) has committed to invest ₹500 crore in Tamil Nadu to produce an advanced range of farm equipment for a wide variety of crops suited for both Indian and international markets. In addition, TAFE proposed investments to enhance its facility for the assembly and export of silent generators to various countries in Central Asia and Africa. The company also plans to establish a state-of-the-art design and development facility in Tamil Nadu.

No plans to lift export curbs on wheat, rice, sugar: Goyal

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said there was no proposal before the government as of now to lift export curbs on wheat, rice and sugar. He also said there is "no plan and no need" to import wheat and sugar. "There is no proposal as of now to remove export restrictions on wheat, rice and sugar. And India will not import wheat and sugar," Mr. Goyal told reporters. He added that India is providing rice to friendly countries for food security needs. PTI

NLC India awards thermal project contract to BHEL

NLC India has awarded a contract to BHEL to set up a 2,400 MW thermal power project at Jharsuguda district in Odisha. The Pit Head Green Field Thermal Power Project of 2,400 MW capacity, comprising 3 units of 800 MW each, is based on Ultra Super Critical Technology. The scope of the work includes engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection and commissioning of equipment for stage one of the power plant, the company said in a statement. PTI

'South India leads in pension enrolment'

PFRDA's Deepak Mohanty says 31% of private sector enrolments in the country so far this financial year were from the South; low insurance awareness a key challenge as pension assets-to-GDP ratio of India is 16.5% compared with over 100% in the U.K., the U.S. and Australia, he adds

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

South India currently has the highest number of National Pension System (NPS) private sector enrolments, said Deepak Mohanty, Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).

Some 31% of private sector enrolments comprising NPS corporate and NPS All Citizen so far this financial year were from the Southern region, he said.

"In the current fiscal, the region accounts for the highest NPS private sector enrolments in the entire country. Southern region's share in enrolment in NPS Corporate in FY24 is 39% and for All Citizen it is 29%," Mr. Mohanty said.

Also, some 36% of women participation in NPS Corporate subscriber base came from the Southern region, again highest in the country, he said.

Commenting on the countrywide performance, he said, as on January 10, 2024, PFRDA had assets under management (AUM) worth ₹11 lakh crore, as against the expectation of ₹12 lakh crore for the full financial year.

Missing awareness

PFRDA Chairman says financial security will not come out of thin air and that India has to plan in advance

- Mr. Mohanty says unlike in the West the majority of people in India have no pension plan as it is not mandatory
- There is lack of financial literacy and general awareness about pension schemes among people, especially women, he adds
- Women have only 20-21% exposure to NPS now even though they live longer than men, says Mr. Mohanty

Deepak Mohanty

The AUM had increased from ₹10 lakh crore to ₹11 lakh crore between August and January 10.

However, the addressable pension market in the country was so large, he observed.

For instance, if pension assets could be measured as a percentage of GDP, the current pension assets-to-GDP ratio of India was some 16.5%. The same ratio in developed countries like the U.K., the United States and Australia was beyond 100%. It was 81% in 2022 for the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries, while some of the Scandinavian countries like Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands were having a ratio of more than 200%.

'Low financial literacy'

One of the key challenges was lack of financial literacy and lack of general awareness about pension schemes. Also, the financial literacy level among women was lower than among men across India.

"Western countries have a three-tier retirement/pension scheme wherein the government, employer and individuals have their own pension plans. In India, the majority of the people have no pension plan as it is not mandatory. Financial security will not come out of thin air, we have to plan and invest in advance. On a national level, women have only 20-21% exposure to NPS now, but the fact is women have a longer longevity," Mr. Mohanty observed.

Chemplast Sanmar plans ₹1,007 cr. expansion in TN

N. Anand
CHENNAI

We will invest in Cuddalore and Berigai in the next 4 years and employ close to 600 people

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. plans to invest ₹1,007 crore to add capacity at its factories in Tamil Nadu over the next four years, a senior company official said.

"We will be investing ₹1,007 crore in Cuddalore and Berigai (Krishnagiri district) in the next four years and will employ close to 600 people," said executive vice president R. Karthik.

The plan is to expand capacities at the Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division (CMCD) in Berigai, as well as the Specialty Paste PVC resin manufacturing unit in Cuddalore.

The Sanmar Group's flagship firm recently signed an MoU with the State government spelling out its long-term investment plan, which would help the specialty chemicals maker enhance its manufacturing capability and boost production volume.

The CMCD is engaged in the manufacture of advanced intermediates for global agrochemical, pharmaceutical, and fine chemical end-use. In addition, CMC markets and sells unique chemistry and process capabilities.

Berigai production

Recently, phase-1 of the multi-purpose custom manufacturing block at Berigai, built at an investment of ₹300 crore, commenced manufacturing of advanced intermediates for global agrochemical, pharmaceutical, and fine chemical innovators.

Company officials expect that phase-2 would take a much shorter time to commission, as it would not require any additional civil work.

Red Sea trade crisis: Commerce Ministry calls meet on January 17

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry has called a high-level inter-ministerial meeting on January 17 to discuss the way forward on the trade front in the wake of ongoing problems in the Red Sea, a senior official said on Saturday.

Senior officials from five ministries – External Affairs, Defence, Shipping, Finance and Commerce – are set to participate in the deliberations.

The commerce ministry has also set up an internal strategic group, comprising additional secretaries of the ministry, to discuss global issues impacting the country's trade on a daily basis and prepare a strategy so that India's response can be quick and decisive.

The situation around the crucial shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, has escalated due to recent attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants.

Due to the attacks, shippers are taking consignments through the Cape of Good Hope, resulting in delays of almost 14 days and also higher freight and insurance costs.

"We are watching the situation very closely," the official said. "There is some cost implication for our exports, but since there are inventories for almost a month only, if it escalates for long then it will be a major problem. We are worried," the official from the ministry added.

The ministry has also asked ECGC not to increase export credit interest rates.

'India is a massive market opportunity for Sri Lanka'

Sri Lanka gets only 20% more tourists from its neighbour India, which has 1.4 billion people, than from the U.K. which is 11 flying hours away

INTERVIEW

Richard Nuttal

Zubeda Hamid

SriLankan Airlines has a long history with India. It began services as early as 1979, and has now operated in Chennai for over 44 years. Despite multiple setbacks, especially those during the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's economic crisis, SriLankan Airlines continues to operate in nine Indian cities, and now has plans to expand.

This is perhaps in line with the country's vision: in October, in an effort to boost tourism, the Sri Lankan Cabinet approved the issuing of free tourist visas to tourists from India as part of a pilot project, until March 31, 2024.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, SriLankan Airlines' CEO, Richard Nuttall talks about the airline's strategy for India, the current challenges it faces and the roadmap ahead. Edited excerpts:

What are your plans with relation to India?

India is the real game at the moment. We carry three different groups of passengers: the Sri Lankan traveller, whether that's the Sri Lankan in Sri Lanka or the diaspora; we have inbound tourism to the country and then we have India, and India is a massive opportunity.

There's three parts to the story: first of all, we are the nearest international beach destination to India. India is the biggest source of tourists for Sri Lanka at the moment, but the reality is, the number is peanuts. We get 20% more tourists from India, which has 1.4 billion people and is next door, than we do from the U.K. that is 11 hours flying time away: we should be getting 10 times that amount.

The second thing about India is that it is the most populous country in the world.

The economy is growing fast and in broad number terms, India has half a commercial aircraft per million people. China has three; even in Sri Lanka, we have one, and the U.S. has 30. Now, the fact that we have more in Sri Lanka than India and we have no domestic market - tells you how big the opportunity in India is.

What are the markets you're targeting? You have a strong presence in south India already...

We have a strong presence in southern India. I think the most obvious next destination is Ahmedabad. [It's a] big market, and an underserved market and a relatively wealthy market. So that's probably the next big one. But there are other cities that we've flown before and other places that if we can expand the narrow-body fleet, I can see as being [big].

What are the segments you are looking at, with tourism being one?

Tourism to here, but the big opportunity is the connecting traffic. We can carry connecting traffic to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, but many of those places will have also direct flights to many cities, so we will carry that opportunistically. But the bigger opportunity is slightly longer haul. So places like Australia, Japan, the places where you are not going to have direct flights from Chennai, Cochin. And so when you're looking at that connecting traffic, it is basically all long haul segments.

Tell me a little about your fleet...

With the fleet, we do have some challenges. Some of them are global challenges and some of them are a little bit to do with the country's situation.

Because we don't have a big balance sheet and because the country doesn't have lots of dollars, we can't go to the market and put in an order for lots of new aircraft. So essentially what we do is that we lease used aircraft. The reality is that while we do get second-hand aircraft, our average fleet age is very much in line with global averages.

(The writer was recently in Sri Lanka at the invitation of SriLankan Airlines)

'Healthcare, pharma to drive job growth in H2 FY24'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Healthcare and pharma will lead India's workforce expansion in the second half of the current fiscal year ending in March, according to staffing firm TeamLease Services.

Chennai is leading in incremental workforce expansion in the healthcare and pharma sector at 12.8%, followed by Kolkata at 11.6%, and Coimbatore at 11.5%, the firm said.

TeamLease said in its hiring outlook report that in accordance with the India@100 vision, the Indian pharma sector was aiming to achieve a milestone of $130 billion by 2030. Capacity expansion, talent development and the cultivation of indispensable skill sets would be critical to drive this ambitious expansion and 86% of healthcare and pharma firms showed serious intent for additional hiring, it said.

The fast moving consumer durable (FMCD) sector was also positioned for revitalisation in the coming months, following a sequence of obstacles that included sluggish consumer sentiment and delayed inventory liquidation. This reversal is anticipated to be fuelled by a housing sector recovery and a significant single-digit price increase. Some 84% of employers in the FMCD industry intended for workforce expansion, the firm found.

The anticipation for 2024 was optimistic on both technological and non-technological fronts in hiring, said NLB Services, a technology and digital talent solutions provider.

POSITIVE MOVE

Bilateral T20I series vs India a step in the right direction: Trott

GETTY IMAGES

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott believes that the bilateral T20I series against India is a 'big step in the right direction'. "It's an indication as well of the progress made by the side. Hopefully, it can happen all around the world and not just India, and we can play in other countries as well as many series as possible," Trott said.

PRAGMATIC

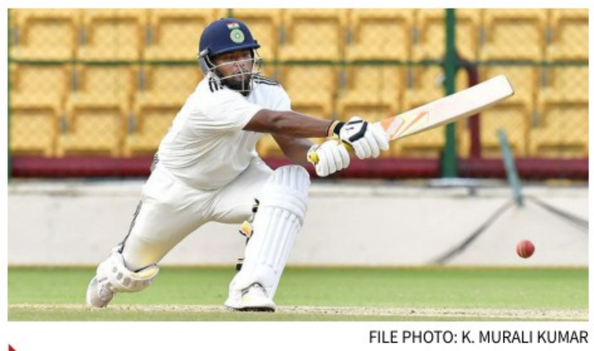
Need to be as well-equipped as we can, says Pope

GETTY IMAGES

England vice-captain Ollie Pope said his side won't complain if India offer pitches assisting spin from the first ball itself during their five-Test series. "Pitches can be a massive talking point. But you've to remember the two teams are playing on the exact same wicket, so we just need to be as well-equipped as we can," Pope said.

IMPRESSIVE KNOCK

Sarfaraz shines in India-A's drawn match against England Lions



FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Rajat Patidar completed his ton and Sarfaraz Khan scored a quickfire 96 as India-A piled up 462 for eight against England Lions as their two-day practice match ended in a draw at Ahmedabad on Saturday. **The scores:** England Lions 233 drew with India-A 462/8-d in 91 overs (Rajat Patidar 111, Sarfaraz Khan 96, K.S. Bharat 64, Dhruv Jurel 50).

ON THE PROWL

Jaipur Pink Panthers pips Puneri Paltan in a thriller

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Jaipur Pink Panthers ended the Puneri Paltan's eight-match winning streak after defeating it 36-34 in Jaipur on Saturday. Puneri Paltan held a huge lead at 20-11 at the end of the first half, but Panthers fought back and clinched victory in the end. In another match, Bengal Warriors downed U.P. Yoddhas 42-37.

Loss to USA makes India's road to Olympics tougher

Abigail's goal in the second quarter hands the visitor a well-earned victory; the home team, which seemed unsettled throughout the game, fails to impress

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

United: USA was far more cohesive as a unit and got the desired result. PTI

Playing in front of a capacity home crowd as the second-highest ranked side, India was expected to have an easy start against USA but its road to an Olympic ticket got a lot tougher with a 0-1 loss on the opening day of the Olympic Qualifiers here on Saturday.

The team came into competition undefeated at this ground but the lack of experience and the pressure of performance with high stakes saw an erratic India falter. Numbers might say India dominated possession and shots at goal and lost by a solitary goal but on field, it was a disjointed team that made basic errors and could just not find a way past the USA defence.

India appeared unsettled all through the game. Instead of opening up space and spreading the field, the side kept trying to push through only from the middle and were strangely clueless and lethargic. Large parts of the ground were left vacant, the flanks were barely utilised and the forwards rarely fell back to defend or try to build up attacks, waiting instead inside the circle and even then often in the wrong position.

Lalremsiami was impressive in manning midfield and trying to find gaps upfront and Neha tried to create openings in the middle but there was little from others. The youngsters and local stars of the ACT triumph - Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari - were barely visible, Salima even guilty of getting a foot in the way that overturned what seemed like a goal. Baljeet Kaur, drafted in as replacement for an injured Vandana, only highlighted the latter's absence.

Nikki Pradhan in the defence played a solo without long-term partner Deep Grace Ekka and the pressure seemed too much. Six penalty corners by Deepika and Navneet went waste. India simply wasn't good enough - it was more about throwing everything at the target and hoping something would stick instead of executing a well-thought out strategy.

In contrast, USA was far more focused on the task, knowing it needed just one strike to take control. A goal by Leah Crouse in the 10th minute was disallowed but 40 seconds into the second quarter, Abigail Tamer stunned the stadium into silence. USA defended cleanly and in numbers, biding its time for counter-attacks and every time it did so, it threatened to score. With seemingly superior fitness and speed, USA was far more cohesive.

The other matches on the day played out on expected lines with former champion Germany registering an easy 3-0 win against Chile and Japan outplaying a defensive Czech Republic 2-0 in Pool A. The other Pool B match between New Zealand and Italy saw the former win 3-0 with Frances Davies scoring twice for the Black Sticks.

The results:

Pool A: Germany 3 (Selin Oruz, Jette Fleschutz, Lisa Nolte) bt Chile 0; Japan 2 (Miyu Suzuki, Shihori Oikawa) bt Czech Republic 0; **Pool B:** New Zealand 3 (Frances Davies 2, Stephanie Dickins) bt Italy 0; India lost to USA 1 (Abigail Tamer).

Men in Blue push for ideal combination for T20 WC

AFGHANISTAN IN IND

Shayan Acharya
INDORE

Looking ahead: India's top-order, comprising Jaiswal, Kohli and Rohit, will be raring to fire. R.V. MOORTHY

From a freezing Mohali to a bright and sunny Indore – it was a refreshing change in weather. As woollen jackets and beanies made way for half-sleeve jerseys and panama hats, the players from India and Afghanistan looked comfortable during their long nets session ahead of the second T20I at the Holkar Stadium here.

India enjoys a favourable record in the shortest format at the iconic venue, with two victories in three outings, and it would be hoping to pocket the series on Sunday.

Coming on the back of a six-wicket win, the home team will be bolstered by the presence of Virat Kohli, who skipped the previous game due to personal reasons. This being the last T20I series for India before the ICC event, it is imperative for the team management to zero in on its likely combination.

It will be important for both Kohli – returning to T20Is after 14 months – and captain Rohit Sharma to get big runs. Both looked at ease as they batted for long in adjoining nets. With Kohli back in the mix, it would be interesting to see whether Tilak Varma retains his spot following a string of low scores.

Shivam Dube would be hoping to keep the momentum going, and his bowling efforts could once again come in handy. Similarly, Jitesh Sharma, who forged a crucial partnership with Dube the other night, will be keen to keep himself in contention for the T20 World Cup. Axar Patel's spell was crucial as he managed to break Afghanistan's 50-plus opening stand, and hopes will once again be pinned on him.

It won't be easy, though. With a formidable batting unit, Afghanistan has the ability to turn things around, as was evident with the way Mohammad Nabi helped the team pick up over a 100 runs in the final 10 overs.

Even though dew will have a bit of an impact, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott expects an 'exciting game'.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

Afghanistan: Ibrahim Zadran (Capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ikram Alikhil, Hazratullah Zazai, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Janat, Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad, Naveen Ul Haq, Noor Ahmad, Mohammad Saleem, Qais Ahmad, Gulbadin Naib and Rashid Khan.

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

Focusing on one game at a time, says Dube

Shayan Acharya
INDORE

Like any other cricketer, Shivam Dube, too, dreams of playing for India in the T20 World Cup. But the Mumbai-based all-rounder, who shone with an unbeaten 60 and claimed a wicket in the first T20I against Afghanistan, does not want to look too far ahead. Instead, he wants to take one game at a time.

"Anyone who plays for the country wants to feature in the World Cup. It's there in mind to play the T20 World Cup as well, but it's far away now. At the moment, I am aiming for the match we are playing tomorrow. That's what my process is – to take it one game at a time," Dube said on Saturday.

A good performance with Chennai Super Kings in the last edition of the IPL earned him a spot in India's squad for the tour of Ireland and the Asian Games. However, after the Asian Games, Dube had to wait for three months to prove a point. Looking back at the time when he was out of the national reckoning, Dube said: "It's difficult when things don't go your way. You cannot do anything about it. I practised hard, followed a process to get better and worked on the mental and physical aspects."

Djokovic sets his sights on a record 25th Slam crown

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

All set: Djokovic is an overwhelming favourite, with a sore wrist that cast a shadow over his build-up no longer troubling him. REUTERS

A "pain-free" Novak Djokovic begins his Australian Open defence against a teenage qualifier on Sunday as he bids for an unprecedented 25th Major crown, but women's top seed Iga Swiatek faces a much trickier assignment.

The opening Grand Slam of the year gets under way as a 15-day event for the first time, aimed at cutting down on late-night finishes.

World No. 1 Djokovic is an overwhelming favourite, with a sore wrist that cast a shadow over his build-up no longer troubling him.

He should have few problems progressing from his evening clash on Rod Laver Arena against 18-year-old Croat Dino Prizmic, who is making his main draw Slam debut.

The Serbian's first real test could come in the third round, with a potential blockbuster showdown against fellow veteran Andy Murray.

If the Serb wins again, he will pass Australian Margaret Court's all-time Slam record and join Court (Australian Open) and Rafael Nadal (French Open) as the only players ever to win 11 times at a single Major.

Adding to the intrigue, the number one ranking is at stake, with Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev all in contention.

Former champions Naomi Osaka and Caroline Wozniacki make their return to Grand Slam tennis after having babies, among a clutch of mothers in the women's draw.

But World No. 1 and top seed Swiatek is clear favourite, having been a dominant force since Ashleigh Barty's surprise retirement after winning the 2022 tournament.

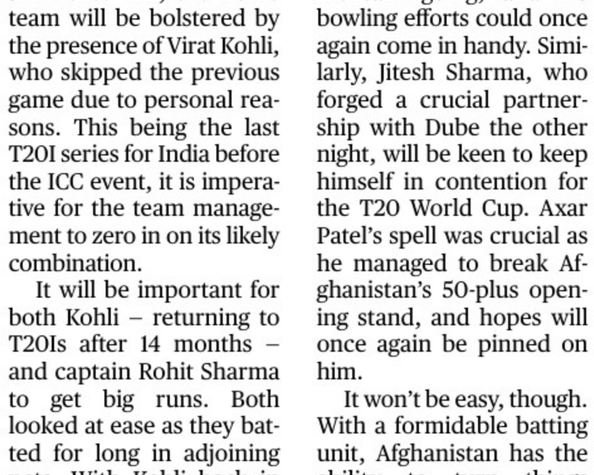
The Pole is on a 16-match win streak, gunning for a fifth Grand Slam title and first in Australia.

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka, who last year became the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to reach at least the semifinals of all four Grand Slams, will be a huge threat.

Second-half goals give Australia victory over a resolute India

AFC ASIAN CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA



Super sub: Bos scored the second to seal the deal for Australia. REUTERS

India's valiant defensive performance in the first half was undone in style by Australia, which opened its AFC Asian Cup 2023 campaign with a 2-0 win at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium here on Saturday.

Jackson Irvine opened the scoring in the 50th minute while super-sub Jordan Bos doubled it 23 minutes later, scoring his first international goal.

Australia started its attack from the word go, with its first shot coming within six minutes of kick-off - Mitchell Duke's left-footed strike flying off-target.

Though the match remained all square till half-time, India's defence was left chasing shadows after restart, with Irvine finding the net within five minutes.

As Gurpreet Singh Sandhu got his hand out to push Martin Boyle's cross from the right, the ball fell for Irvine, who chested it and shot it into the net past Nikhil Poojary.

Coach Graham Arnold brought on Bos for Craig Goodwin, who had been heavily marked for his ability to deliver menacing crosses, in the 72nd minute, and that put the final nail in the coffin for India's hopes.

Bos, who usually plays as a left-back was deployed as a left-winger and when Riley McGree's cross from the right arrived, he made no mistake in the box, beating Poojary and tucking it home within one minute of being subbed on.

India, on the other hand, had its moments too. It ticked a lot of boxes in the defensive department, largely playing with one-touch triangular passes, keeping a solid mid-block, and, at times, pressing with three players against an opponent with the ball, when out of possession.

Igor Stimac would be relieved to find some balance in the defensive midfield area, with Deepak Tangri filling in the boots of injured Jeakson Singh like a duck to water on his senior international debut.

India's best chance of scoring, on the other hand, came in the 16th minute when Poojary side-stepped his marker to whip in a cross for Sunil Chhetri, whose flying header went just off-target and thousands of Indian fans in the stadium heaved a cold sigh along with the forward in the same breath.

Stimac's side would find solace in its impressive first-half defensive exhibition, which will come in handy against its next opponent, Uzbekistan, which it plays five days later.

Australia will look to hunt down its next prey in Syria, on January 18.

The result:

Australia 2 (Irvine 50, Bos 73) bt India 0.

Palmer's penalty sinks Fulham

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Cole Palmer fired Chelsea to a 1-0 win against west London rival Fulham on Saturday as the inconsistent Blues bounced back from their League Cup embarrassment at Middlesbrough. Palmer converted a penalty late in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

In another match, Carlton Morris scored a controversial stoppage-time equaliser as Luton salvaged a 1-1 draw in their crucial clash with relegation rival Burnley on Friday. Zeke Amdouni netted late in the first half at Turf Moor to give Burnley the lead, but Morris headed Luton level in the closing minutes.

Important results: Premier League: Chelsea 1 (Palmer 45+3-pen) bt Fulham 0; Burnley 1 (Amdouni 36) drew with Luton 1 (Morris 90+2). **LaLiga:** Las Palmas 3 (Kirian 8, 63, Herzog 51) bt Villarreal 0; Sevilla 2 (Mir 70, Ocampos 82-pen) lost to Alaves 3 (Tenaglia 26, Kike 40, Duarte 90). **Bundesliga:** Bayern Munich 3 (Musiala 18, 70 Kane 90) bt Hoffenheim 0. **Serie A:** Genoa 0 drew with Torino 0; Napoli 2 (Politano 45+3-pen, Rrahmani 90+6) bt Salernitana 1 (Candreva 29).

INBRIEF

Lehecka defeats Draper to win first ATP title in Adelaide

Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko and young Czech Jiri Lehecka, in pic, claimed the Adelaide International titles. Lehecka bounced back from losing the first set to beat Briton Jack Draper and claim a maiden ATP Tour crown 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Ostapenkobeat Russian Daria Kasatkina 6-3, 6-2 for a seventh WTA Tour title.

Other results: Finals: ATP 250, Auckland Classic: Alejandro Tabilo bt Taro Daniel 6-3, 7-5.
WTA 250 Hobart International: Emma Navarro bt Elise Mertens 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Gujarat Giants bests Chennai Quick Guns, wins UKK crown

Gujarat Giants became champions of Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 with a 31-26 victory over Chennai Quick Guns at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cuttack on Saturday. Despite battling bouts of inconsistency during the league phase, Giants were superb on the day as it closed off the contest in the first innings itself. Quick Guns, which was favourite coming into the match, will rue its failure to get going from the onset. That meant that a superb comeback in the final turn was not enough. Giants took home a purse of ₹1 crore while Quick Guns received ₹50 lakh. Meanwhile, Odisha Juggernauts secured third place by defeating Telugu Yoddhas 32-24. It was Yoddhas that held a slender 14-13 advantage at the end of the first innings. But a good Turn three by Juggernauts saw it finish the match on top.

Mayank's century propels Karnataka

The skipper brings up his 16th First Class ton and is ably supported by Samarth; the visiting side takes a 64-run lead with five wickets in hand

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal started the Ranji Trophy season with a pair against Punjab last week. On Saturday, Mayank celebrated with gusto after recording a fine century against Gujarat at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

The turnaround in fortunes came through an attacking 124-ball 109 – Mayank's 16th First Class century. A 172-run opening stand alongside R. Samarth (60, 108b, 7x4) laid the platform for Karnataka to ease past Gujarat's first-innings total of 264. The visitor ended the day at 328 for five, sitting on a lead of 64 runs.

Mayank brought the bat down hard on deliveries outside off, peppering the cover and point boundaries. "It feels good to score a hundred after what happened in the first game. It shows my resilience," Mayank said.

Back in form: Mayank will be happy to contribute after getting a pair in the game against Punjab. VIJAY SONEJI

Fortunes

Mayank's time at the crease was cut short when he was given caught-behind down the leg. An upset Mayank took his time to return to the pavilion, as the ball appeared to have brushed only the pad. Samarth earned a reprieve on 29, when he edged left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai to slip. The television umpire, however, spotted that Desai had delivered a no-ball. Devdutt Padikkal looked fluent in his 42, until he opted to cut a ball from off-spinner R.A. Vaghela which was much too straight.

Manish Pandey, who scored 118 in the Punjab encounter, eased his way to an unbeaten 56. Pandey came alive in the evening session, stepping out to the spinners and blasting them over mid-off and mid-on.

Debutant Sujay Sateri (24 batting) showed extraordinary pluck. Facing just his second delivery at the First Class level, Sateri ran down the track to fast bowler Chintan Gaja and lofted him over cover. The wicketkeeper-batter remained confident and aggressive, hitting one maximum along the way.

With only four frontline bowlers in the eleven, Gujarat might be forced to concede a massive deficit.

The scores:
Gujarat - 1st innings: 264.
Karnataka - 1st innings: R. Samarth b Desai 60, Mayank Agarwal c Het b Gaja 109, Devdutt Padikkal b Vaghela 42, Nikin Jose (run out) 22, Manish Pandey (batting) 56, Shubhang Hegde lbw b Gaja 11, Sujay Sateri (batting) 24, Extras (lb-1, w-1, nb-2): 4, Total (for five wickets in 90 overs): 328
Fall of wickets: 1-172, 2-172, 3-237, 4-238, 5-298
Gujarat bowling: Gaja 16-3-43-2, Nagwaswalla 14-3-60-0, Desai 31-6-111-1, Ripal 3-0-13-0, Vaghela 24-4-90-1, Hingrajia 2-0-10-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES — ROUND 2, DAY 2

Elite: Group-A: At Rajkot: Saurashtra 145 & 148/6 in 54 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 43, Arpit Vasavada 45) vs Haryana 200 in 67 overs (Ankit Kumar 74, Himanshu Rana 70, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 4/55).
At Pune: Jharkhand 403 in 126.2 overs (Kumar Suraj 83, Virat Singh 108, Shahbaz Nadeem 41, Hitesh Walunj 6/91) vs Maharashtra 149/1 in 42 overs (Pavan Shah 64 batting, Naushad Shaikh 63 batting).
At Delhi: Services 424/3 in 154 overs (Nitin Tanwar 61, Ravi Chauhan 107, Anshul Gupta 128 batting, Rajat Paliwal 87 batting) vs Rajasthan.
At Ahmedabad: Manipur 75 & 65 in 32 overs (Aditya Sarwate 5/10) vs Vidarbha 230 in 80.3 overs (Aditya Sarwate 69, L. Kishan Singha 4/68).
Group-B: At Mumbai: Mumbai 395 in 137.2 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 61, Suved Parkar 41, Shreyas Iyer 48, Tanush Kotian 54, Mohit Avasthi 53, Nitish Kumar Reddy 5/64) vs Andhra 98/3 in 37 overs (Prasanth Kumar 59 batting).
At Patna: Bihar 108 vs Chhattisgarh 211/1 in 66 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 98 batting, Ashutosh Singh 81 batting).
At Kanpur: Uttar Pradesh 60 & 46/0 in 18 overs vs Bengal 188 in 58.2 overs (Sayan Ghosh 41, Mohammed Kaif 45 n.o., Bhuvneshwar Kumar 8/41).
At Guwahati: Kerala 419 in 113.4 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 83, Krishna Prasad 80, Rohan Prem 50, Sachin Baby 131) vs Assam 14/2 in 5 overs.
Group-C: At Mullanpur: Railways 343/9 in 102 overs (Pratham Singh 60, Mohammad Saif 50, Upendra Yadav 58, Sahab Yuvraj Singh 68 batting, Siddarth Kaul 4/80) vs Punjab.
At Agartala: Tamil Nadu 122/2 in 41 overs (B. Indrajith 47 batting, Vijay Shankar 50 batting) vs Tripura.
At Porvorim: Goa 618/7 decl. in 160 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 45, Suyash Prabhudessai 197, K. Siddharth 77, Rahul Tripathi 40, Darshan Misal 46, Deepraj Gaonkar 115 n.o., Arjun Tendulkar 70) vs Chandigarh 73/1 in 18 overs (Arslan Khan 41 batting).
At Ahmedabad: Gujarat 264 vs Karnataka 328/5 in 90 overs (R. Samarth 60, Mayank Agarwal 109, Devdutt Padikkal 42, Manish Pandey 56 batting).
Group-D: At Indore: Odisha 493/8 in 169 overs (S. Senapati 277 batting, Rajesh Dhuper 51, Harshit Rathod 60 batting) vs Madhya Pradesh.
At Dharamsala: Uttarakhand 238 in 79.3 overs (Aditya Tare 100) & 28/1 in 8 overs vs Himachal Pradesh 271 in 64 overs (Prashant Chopra 46, Sumeet Verma 95, Deepak Dhapola 4/53).
At Vadodara: Baroda 218 & 128/7 in 46 overs (Sagar Udeshi 4/52) vs Puducherry 155 in 59.5 overs (Akash Kargave 45, Bhargav Bhatt 5/49).
At Jammu: Delhi 0/0 in 1 over vs Jammu & Kashmir.
Plate: At Shillong: Meghalaya 111 & 154 in 36.1 overs (Kishan Lyngdoh 47, Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva 53) lost to Hyderabad 346/7 decl. in 80 overs (Rohit Rayudu 124 n.o., Chandan Sahani 52, Chama Milind 50 n.o.).
Points: Hyderabad 7 (14), Meghalaya 0 (7).
At Anand: Sikkim 544/7 decl. in 135 overs (Pankaj Rawat 58, Nilesh Lamichaney 103, Palzor Tamang 86, Saurav Prasad 119, Ankur Malik 100 n.o.) vs Arunachal Pradesh 98 in 43.4 overs (Ayush Awasthi 48, Ankur Malik 5/27).
At Nadiad: Nagaland 211 & 48/1 in 18 overs vs Mizoram 356 in 72.2 overs (Agni Chopra 164, Mohit Jangra 113 n.o.).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
New Zealand vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, Prime Video, 11.40 a.m.
India vs Afghanistan: 2nd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Monday)

Bopanna and Ebden go down in the title clash

Sports Bureau

Second seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden were edged out 7-5, 5-7, [11-9] by third seeds Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in the doubles final of the $739,945 ATP tennis in Adelaide on Saturday. They pocketed $18,000 and 150 points.

Other result: €74,825 Challenger, Oeiras: Doubles, semifinals: Arjun Kadhe & Marcus Willis (GBR) bt Filip Bergevi (Swe) & Mick Veldheer (Ned) 6-2, 3-6, [13-11].

Satwik-Chirag duo enters summit clash

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Saturday beat world champion Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyukdished in straight games to advance to the Malaysia Open Super 1000 men's doubles final in their first tournament of the season.

The Indian duo, ranked second in the world, saved six game points during an eight-point burst in the second game to waltz their way to a 21-18, 22-20 victory in a thrilling semifinal clash.

The duo is just one step away from its second Super 1000 title, having clinched the first one at the Indonesian Open in June last year.

Vijayveer claims Olympic quota in rapid fire pistol

Sports Bureau

Vijayveer Sidhu won the Olympic quota in rapid fire pistol with a silver medal in the Asian shooting in Jakarta on Saturday.

It was the 17th Olympic quota for Indian shooting for the Paris Olympics and the second in rapid fire pistol after the one won by Anish Bhanwala.

India has swept all possible Olympic quota in rifle and pistol, except for one in women's air pistol.

The results:
25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Nikita Chiryukin (Kaz) 32 (584); 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 28 (577); 3. Song Jong-Ho (Kor) 23 (582). **RPO:** Arpit Goel 573. **Team:** 1. Korea 1736, 2 Vietnam 1722, 3. Indonesia 1718; 6. India 1704.
50m rifle 3-position: 1. Lee Eunseo (Kor) 462.5 (588); 2. Sift Kaur Samra 460.6 (586); 3. Ashi Chouksey 447.0 (588); 4. Anjum Moudgil 436.3 (586). **RPO** Ayushi Podder 581; Shriyanka Sadangi 577. **Team:** 1. India 1760, 2. Kazakhstan 1754, 3. Korea 1748.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Parikshit & Manish win

MANDYA: India's Parikshit Somani and Manish Sureshkumar emerged the doubles winners at the PET ITF Mandya Open on Saturday.
The results: Singles, semifinals: Jelle Sels bt Karan Singh 6-1, 6-4; Orel Kimhi (Isr) bt Siddharth Vishwakarma 2-6, 7-5, 6-4. **Doubles, final:** Parikshit Somani & Manish Sureshkumar bt Woobin Shin (Kor) & Karan Singh 4-6, 6-1, [10-8].

One for the album: Winners Parikshit and Manish, right, with runners-up Woobin and Karan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bangalore International GM Open from Jan. 18

The Bangalore Urban District Chess Association (BUDCA), in partnership with the government of Karnataka, is all set to host the first edition of the Bangalore International Grandmasters Open Chess Tournament at the Kanteerava Indoor Stadium from January 18 to 26.

More than 40 grandmasters from across 20 countries, including prominent names such as Abhijeet Gupta and Nigel Short, and over 2000 players, are expected to compete in the Garden City, which last hosted a tournament of this magnitude more than four decades ago. The competition will provide prize money worth ₹50 lakh and will unfold across three categories A, B and C according to players' FIDE ratings. On January 22, an open Blitz tournament will also be held. M.S. Thejkumar, the first GM from Karnataka, was pleased to play in a tournament at home.

"There is a sharp rise in the number of tournaments in India now," he said at a media briefing on Saturday.

Dyanoosh wins B. Vijay Reddy Memorial Cup

Hyderabad: Trainer Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan's mare Dyanoosh, ridden by Kuldeep Singh Jr., won the B. Vijay Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Saturday's (Jan. 13) races.
The winner is owned by Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh, Mr. Md. Sultan & Mr. M. Praveen Kumar.
1. ANMOL RATAN PLATE (Div. II): **DEL HEIGHTS** (Vivek G) 1, Ivanhoe (Surya Prakash) 2, Role Model (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Prague (Ashad Asbar) 4. Nose, 3/4 and 1-3/4. 1m 40. 72s. ₹159 (w), 29, 76 and 70 (p). SHP: 188, THP: 223, SHW: 84 and 122, FP: 4,802, Q: 1,873, Tanala: c/o. (Note: In this race N R I Superpower (Shivansh up) stumbled near 250m and dislodged her rider. Shivansh escaped unhurt. Favourite: Alpine Girl.
Owners: Mr. Rohit Gupta rep. Rolli Stud Dairy & Agri. Farm. Trainer: Magan Singh.
2. ATTRACTRESS PLATE: ROYAL PARADE (R.S. Jodha) 1, Cannon Rose (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Bellingham (Kaviraj) 3 and Sunny Day (Surya Prakash) 4. Neck, 5-1/2 and 3-3/4. 1m 7. 50s. ₹70 (w), 19, 15 and 11 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 42, SHW: 34 and 13, FP: 363, Q: 106, Tanala: 690. Favourite: Bellingham.
Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.
3. TWIN STAR CUP: DALI'S DESTINY (Ajay Kumar) 1, Samrat (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Encore (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Alcahol Free (Ashad Asbar) 4. Not run: Free To Win. 1-1/4, 2-3/4 and 1/2. 1m 26.58s. ₹20 (w), 13, 16 and 14 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 33, SHW: 10 and 20, FP: 73, Q: 56, Tanala: 182. Favourite: Dali's Destiny.
Owners: Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimrah Mirza & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza. Trainer: Laxman Singh.
4. BALLERINA STAR PLATE (Div. I): **COSMICO** (Vivek G) 1, Star Racer (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Angel Tesoro (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Silver Lining (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 5, 2 and 1-1/4. 1m 13. 17s. ₹21 (w), 13, 20 and 31 (p). SHP: 64, THP: 55, SHW: 14 and 41, FP: 120, Q: 74, Tanala: 1,150. Favourite: Angel Tesoro.
Owners: Mr. Subodh Kumar Anathula & Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.
5. ANMOL RATAN PLATE (Div. I): **FLY TOTHE STARS** (Afroz Khan) 1, Hugh Capet (Vivek G) 2, Honourable Lady (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Path of Peace (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 39. 80s. ₹27 (w), 14, 13 and 22 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 53, SHW: 18 and 13, FP: 116, Q: 76, Tanala: 956. Favourite: Fly Tothe Stars.
Owners: Mr. S. A. Shehzad Abbas & Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain. Trainer: Raza Shehzad.
6. BALLERINA STAR PLATE (Div. II): **D MINCHU** (Nikhil Naidu) 1, Coming Home (Vivek G) 2, Beauty Flame (Mohit Singh) 3 and Golden Inzio (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. Not run: Sucker Punch. 3-1/4, 1/2 and Shd. 1m 13. 19s. ₹62 (w), 17, 39 and 22 (p). SHP: 87, THP: 70, SHW: 47 and 56, FP: 521, Q: 217, Tanala: 3,145. Favourite: Power Ranger.
Owner: Mr. B.M. Dayananda. Trainer: G. Sandeep.
7. B. VIJAY REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: DYANOOSH (Kuldeep Singh Jr.) 1, See My Spark (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Clefairy (Santosh Raj) 3 and Juramento (Kaviraj) 4. Not run: Garnet. 3/4, 3/4 and Head. 1m 12. 86s. ₹35 (w), 10, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 58, THP: 55, SHW: 31 and 25, FP: 538, Q: 297, Tanala: 1,487. Favourite: Stunning Force.
Owners: Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh, Mr. Md. Sultan & Mr. M. Praveen Kumar. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.
8. BUSINESS TYCOON PLATE: JET FALCON (G. Naresh) 1, My Way Or Highway (Mohit Singh) 2, Tortilla Chip (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Cash Register (Nikhil Naidu) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and Shd. 1m 28. 42s. ₹43 (w), 14, 25 and 25 (p). SHP: 67, THP: 85, SHW: 30 and 13, FP: 668, Q: 318, Tanala: 8,224. Favourite: Special Effort.
Owner: Mr. Ajay Kumar. Trainer: Magan Singh.
Jackpot: 70%: 94,159 (4 tkts.), 30%: 2,603 (62 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i): 6,898 (13 tkts.), (ii): 47,765 (2 tkts.).
Treble: (i): 9,025 (5 tkts.), (ii): 368 (116 tkts.), (iii): 3,664 (20 tkts.).